

# From Vermont to Hawai'i: Monitoring Critical Design Features in Bioretention

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# University of Vermont: Outdoor Bioretention Laboratory

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**2016 International Low Impact  
Development Conference  
Portland, ME**



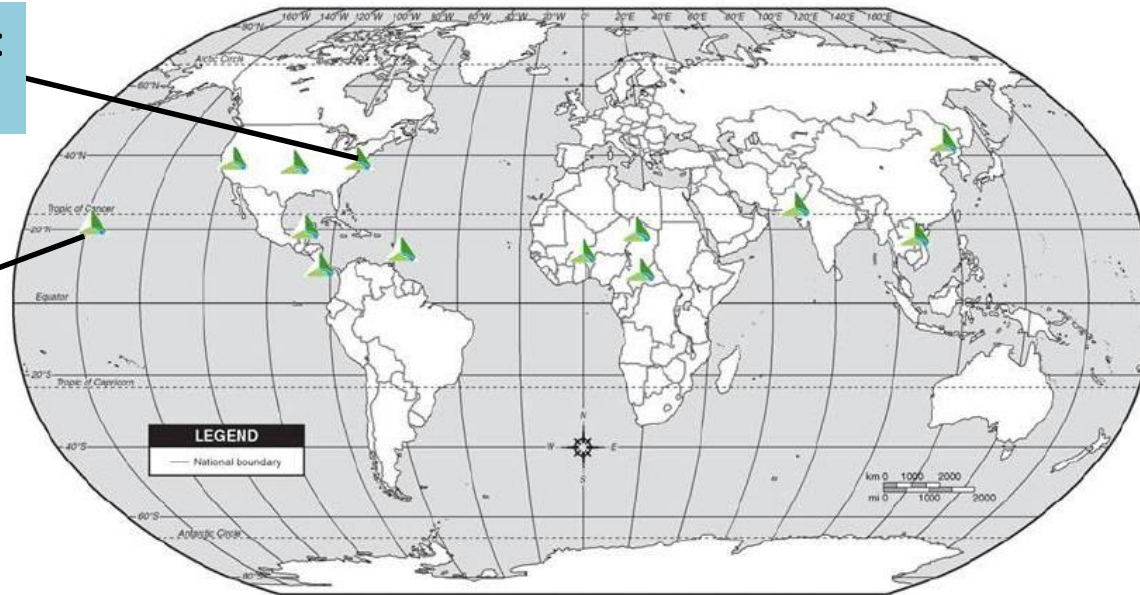
# ECOSOLUTIONS

innovative designs – living systems



East Coast Office:  
Westford, VT

Pacific Office:  
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*Global civil  
engineering firm  
specializing in  
LID, Research &  
Development,  
Construction,  
Operation &  
Maintenance*

Residence – Akumal, Mexico



US Embassy – Ouagadougou,  
Burkina Faso



US Embassy – Abu Dhabi, UAE



# Urbanization Impacts Local Hydrology and Water Quality

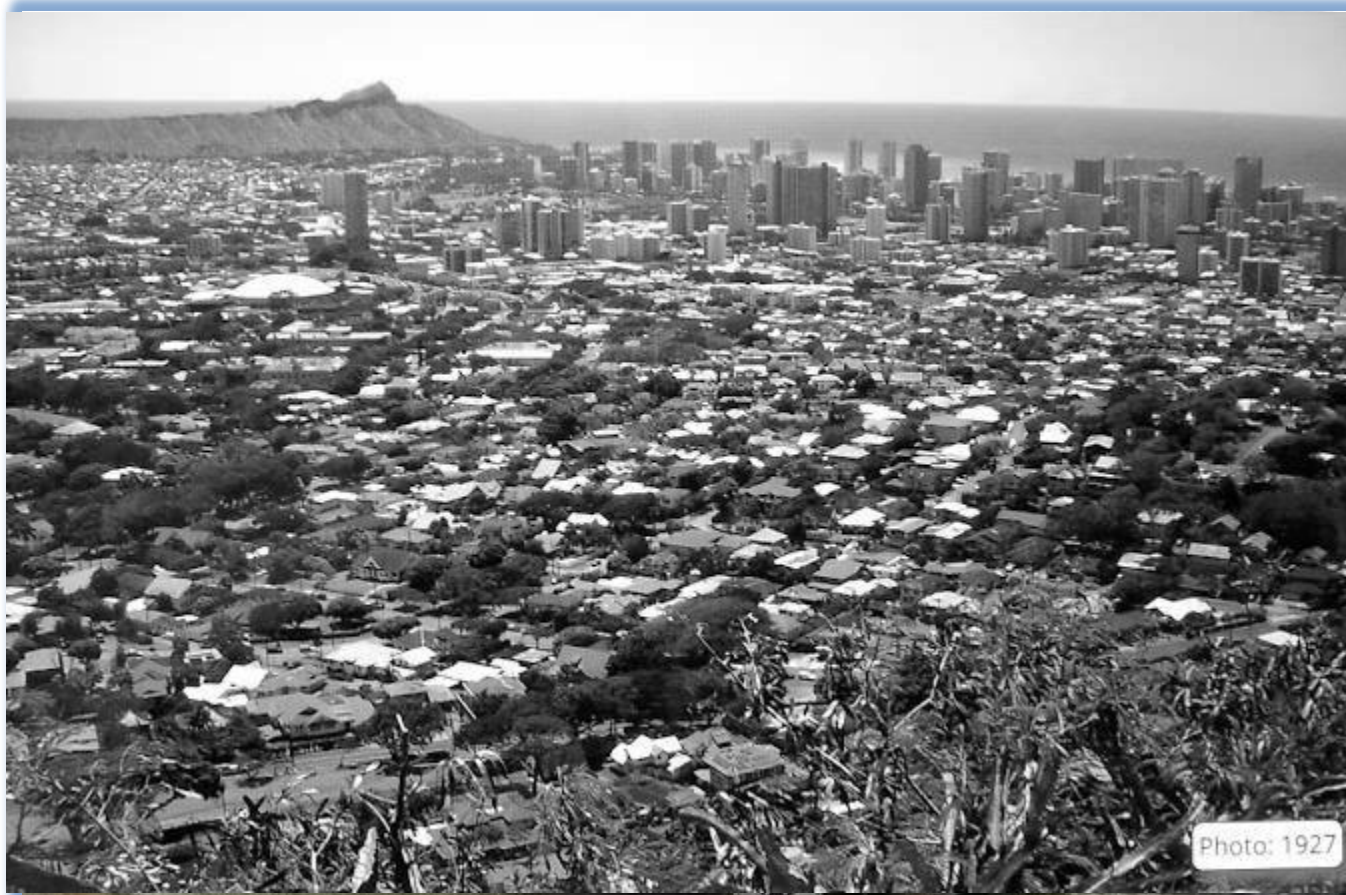
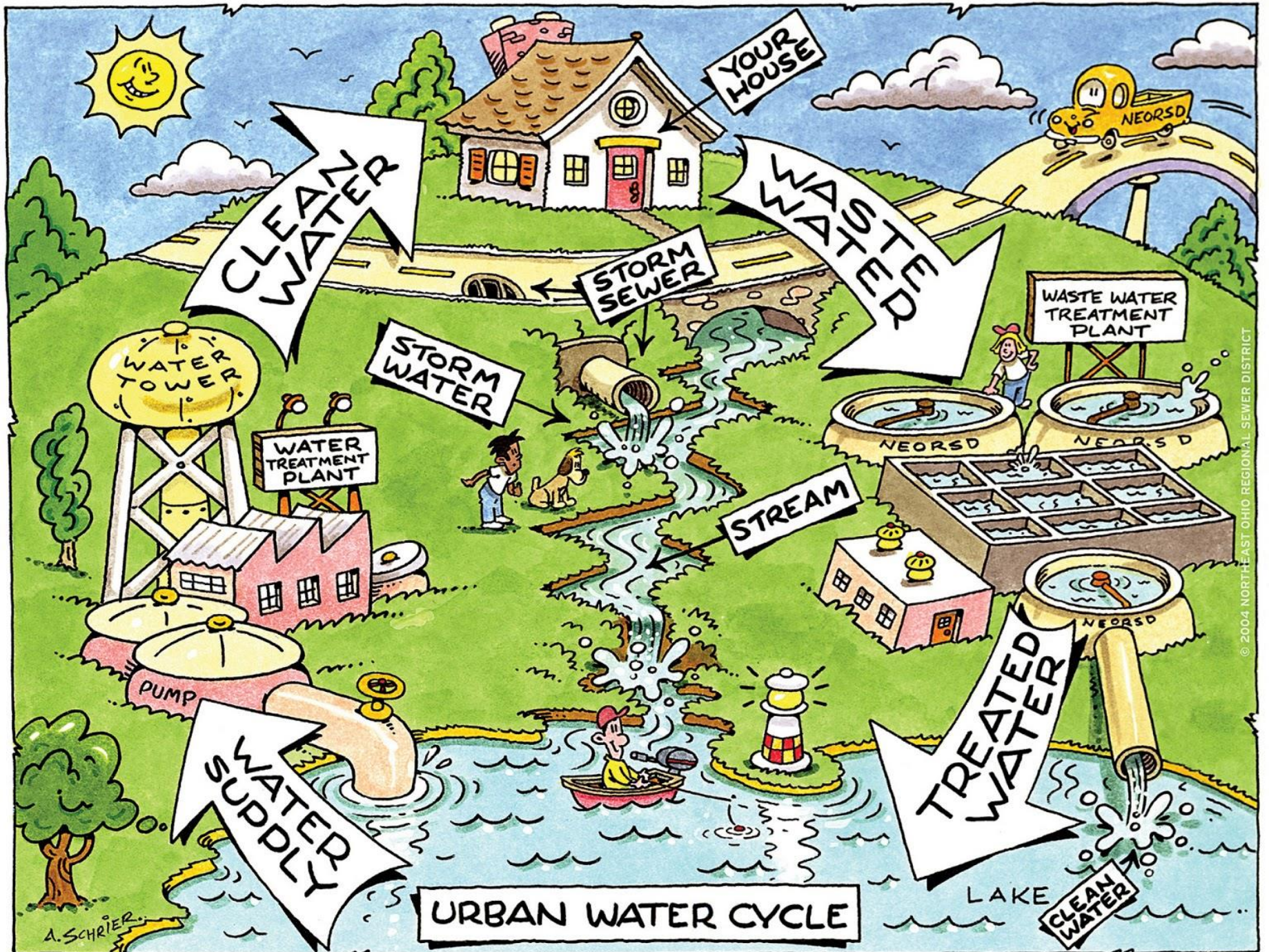
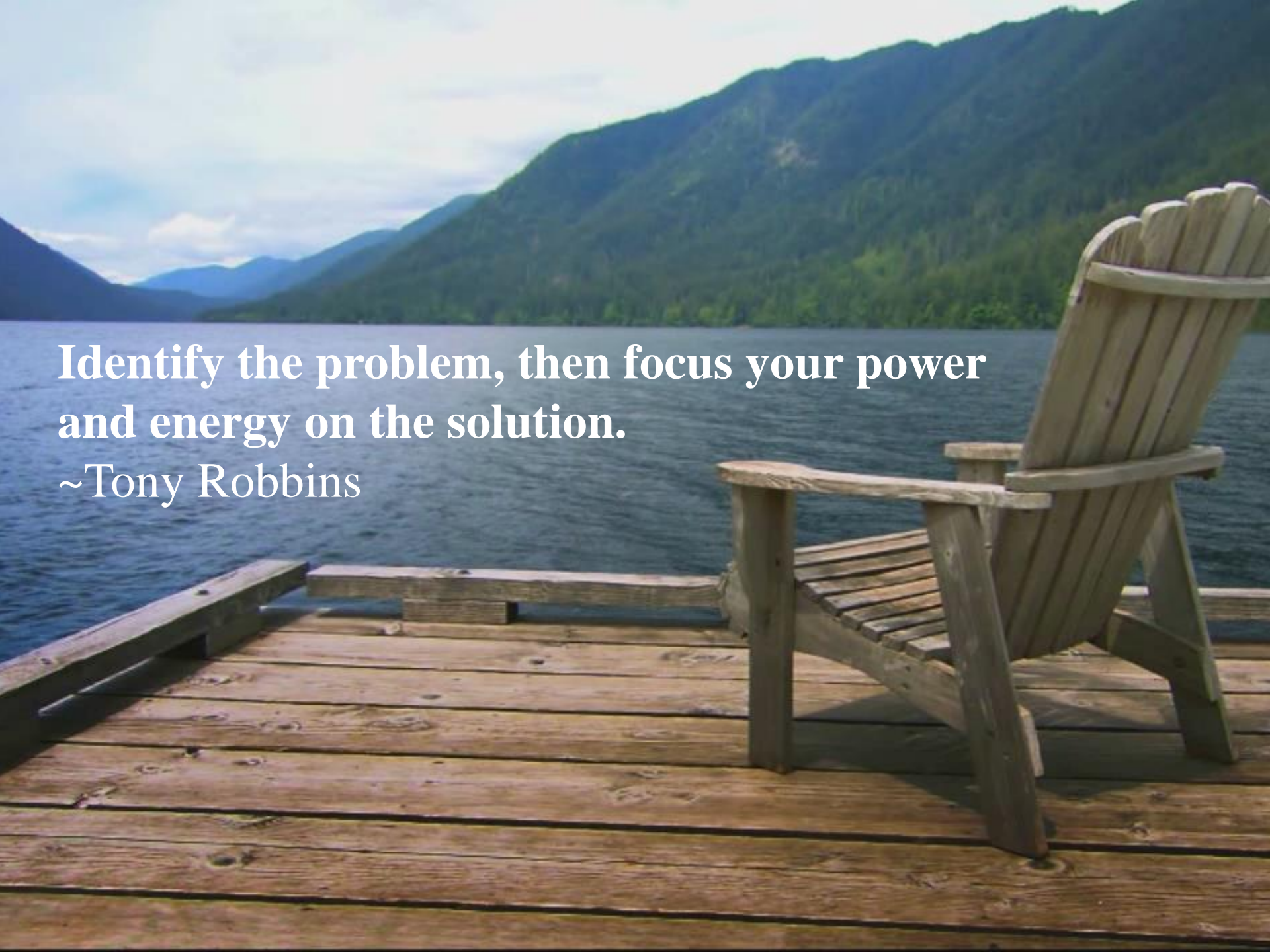


Photo Credit: Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum







A wooden Adirondack chair sits on a wooden dock, facing a calm lake. In the background, there are lush green mountains under a cloudy sky. The scene is peaceful and scenic.

**Identify the problem, then focus your power  
and energy on the solution.**

**~Tony Robbins**



# Low Impact Design & Development

LID is an approach to development (or re-development) that mimics pre-development hydrology and uses ecological design and engineering to remove pollutants in stormwater and wastewater so it can be re-used or replenish groundwater supplies.





# Decentralized Wastewater Treatment

## Design Strengths:

Soluble Pollutant Removal

Provides Habitat

Increase Biodiversity

Efficient

Low Cost

Low Maintenance

Low Energy Consumption

Aesthetics (Functional Design)

## Design Challenges:

Requires Maintenance

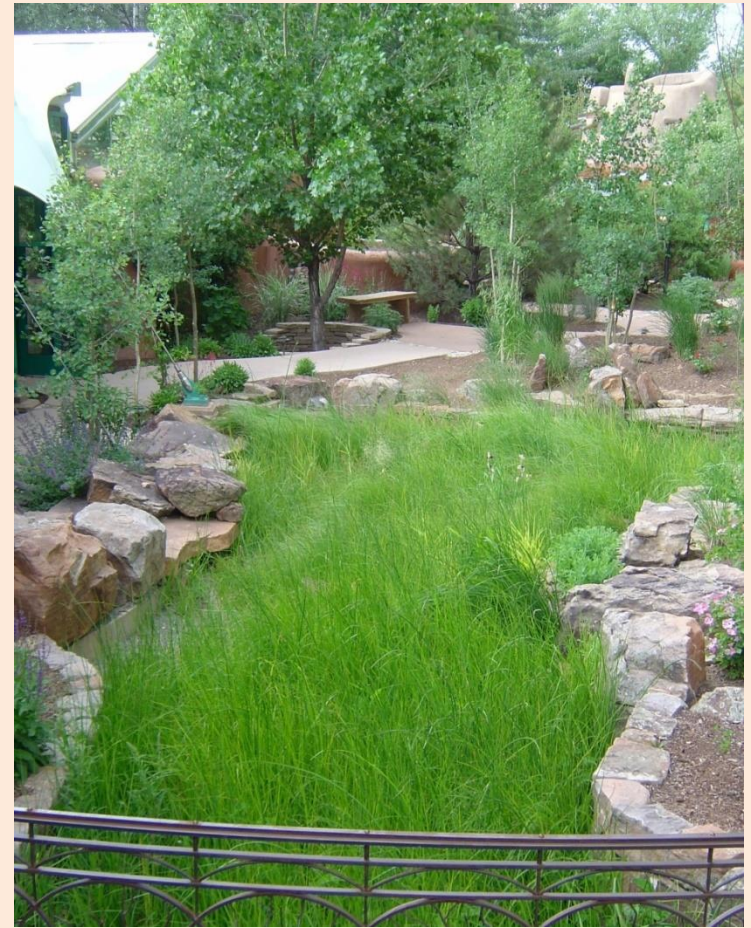
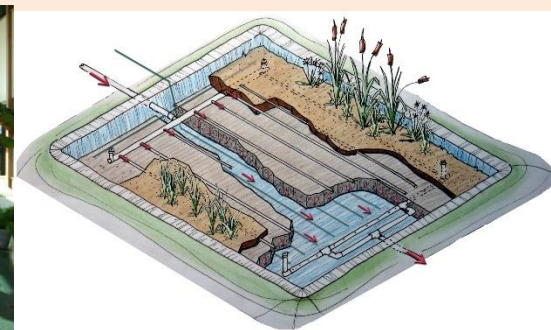
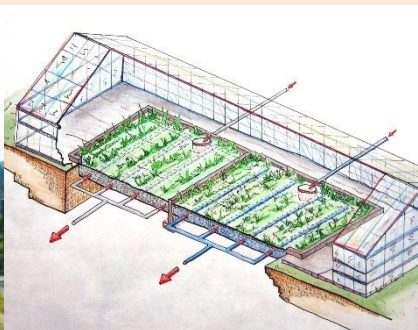


Image: Living Designs Group Inc.

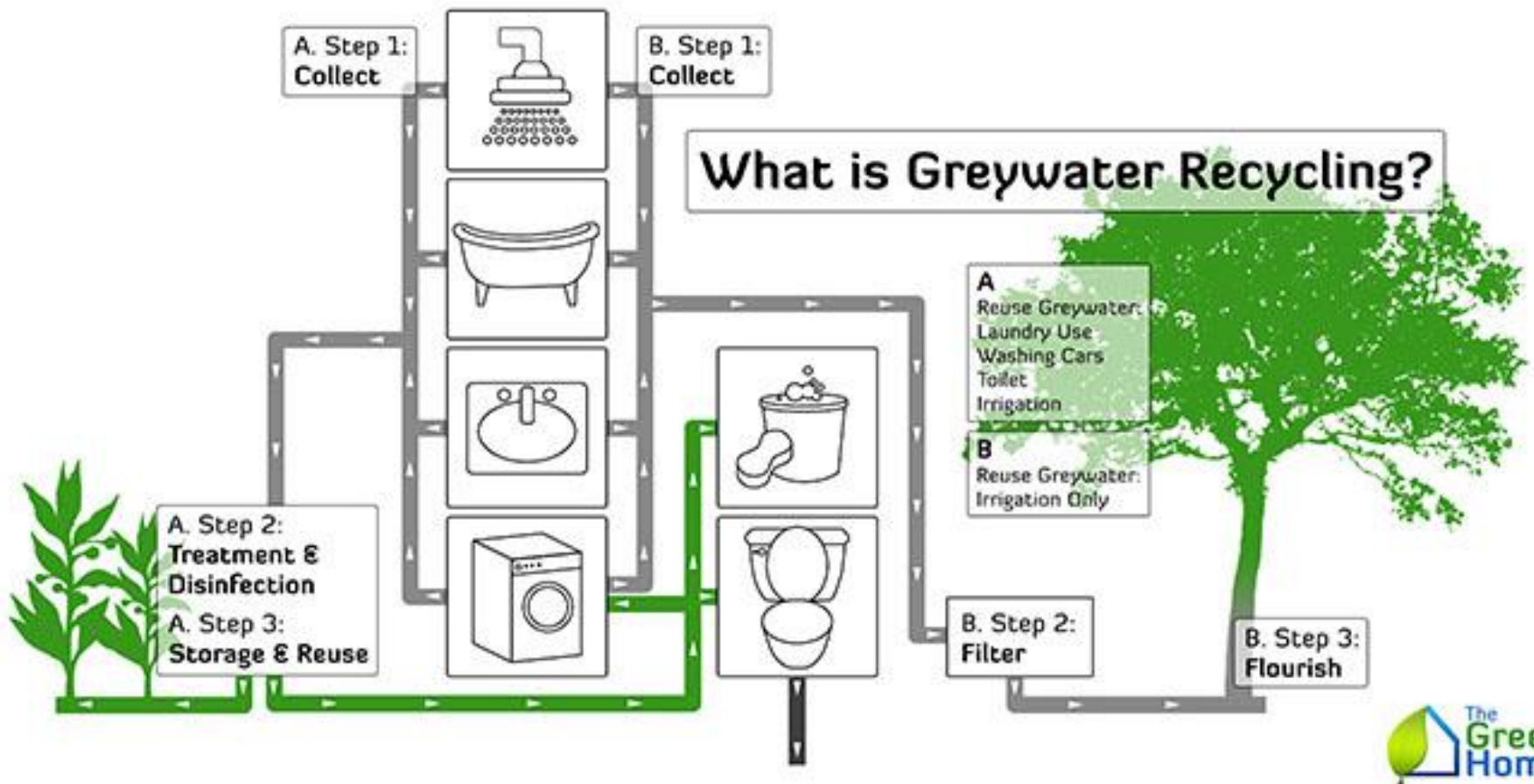






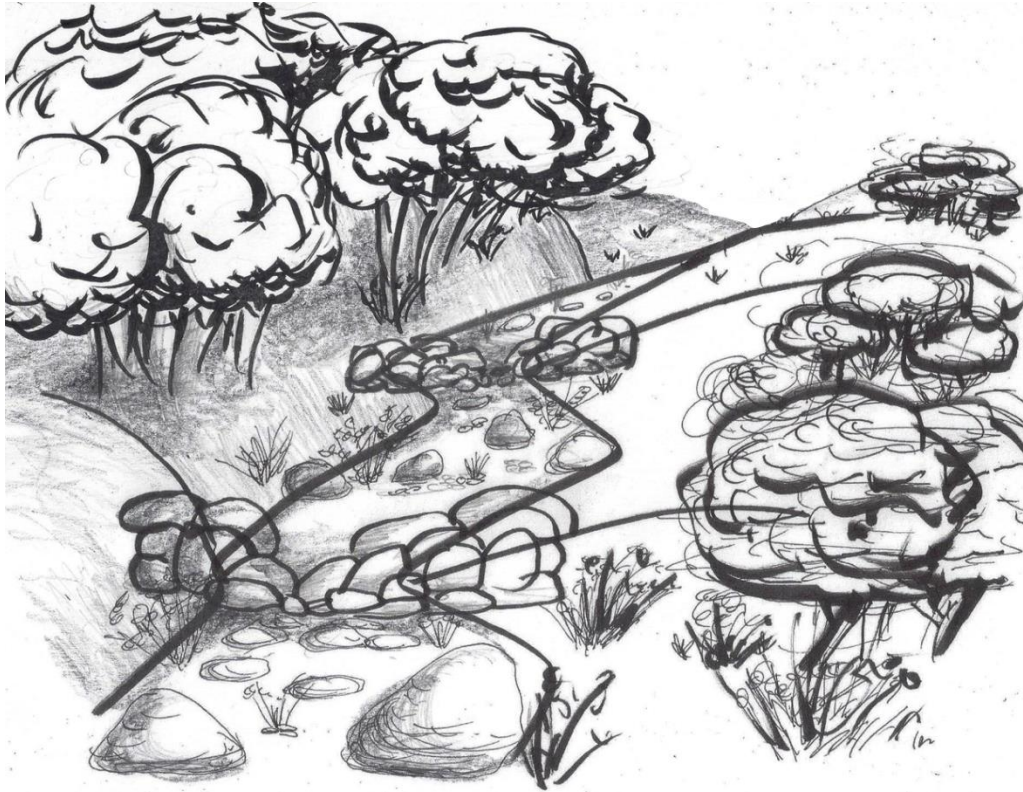
Eco Machine for Wastewater Treatment:  
University of Vermont

# Gray Water Reuse

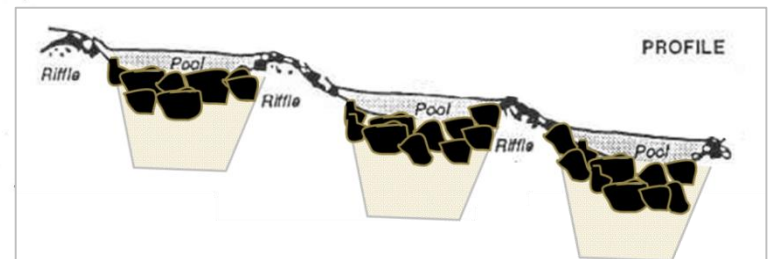




# Forest Restoration and Natural Slope Stabilization



- Restoration of native forest
- Bank stabilization
- Naturalized rock check dams
- Reduction of peak flow rate
- Removal of sediment



# Natural Swimming Pools

## Design Strengths:

Decrease Chemical Discharge

Improved Human Health

## Design Challenges:

Requires Maintenance



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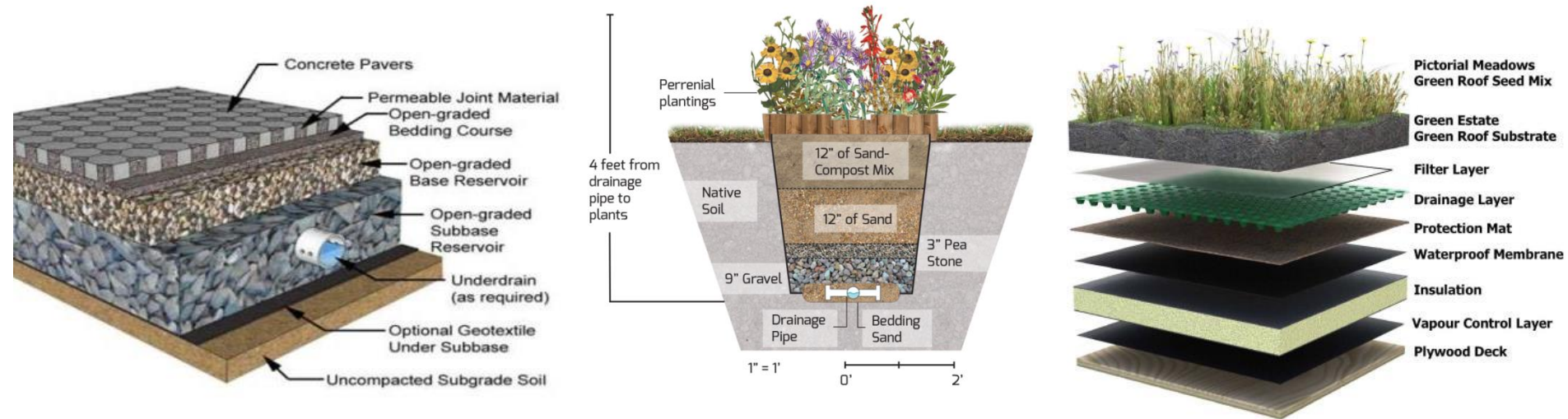








# Low Impact Design and Development (LID) includes Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)



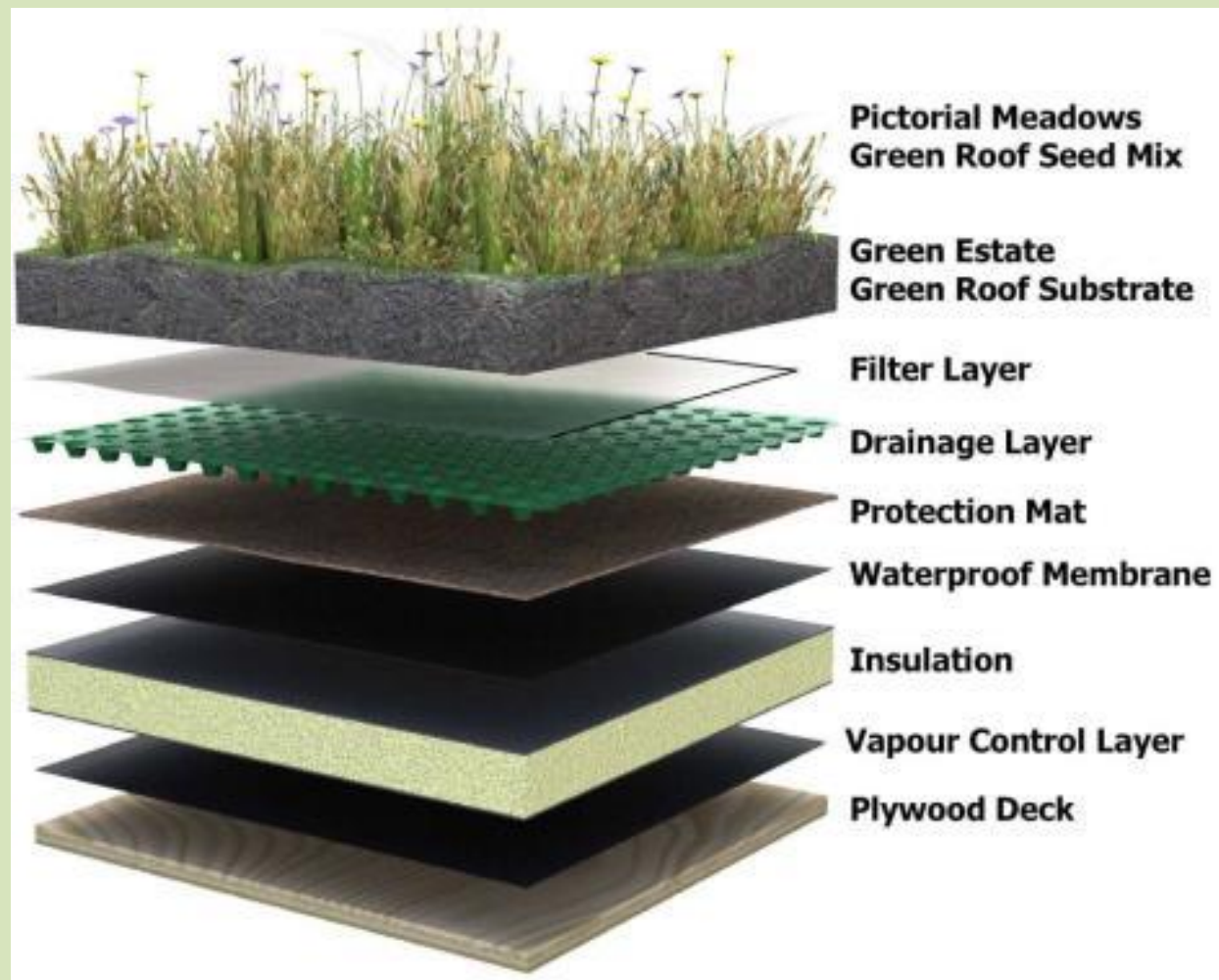
# Green Roofs

## Design Strengths:

- Reduce Volume
- Reduce Peak Flows
- Remove Pollutants
- Reduce Temperature Heat Island
- Provide Habitat
- Increase Biodiversity

## Design Challenges:

- Maintenance
- Plant Selection







Green Roof:  
Macy's Building Chicago



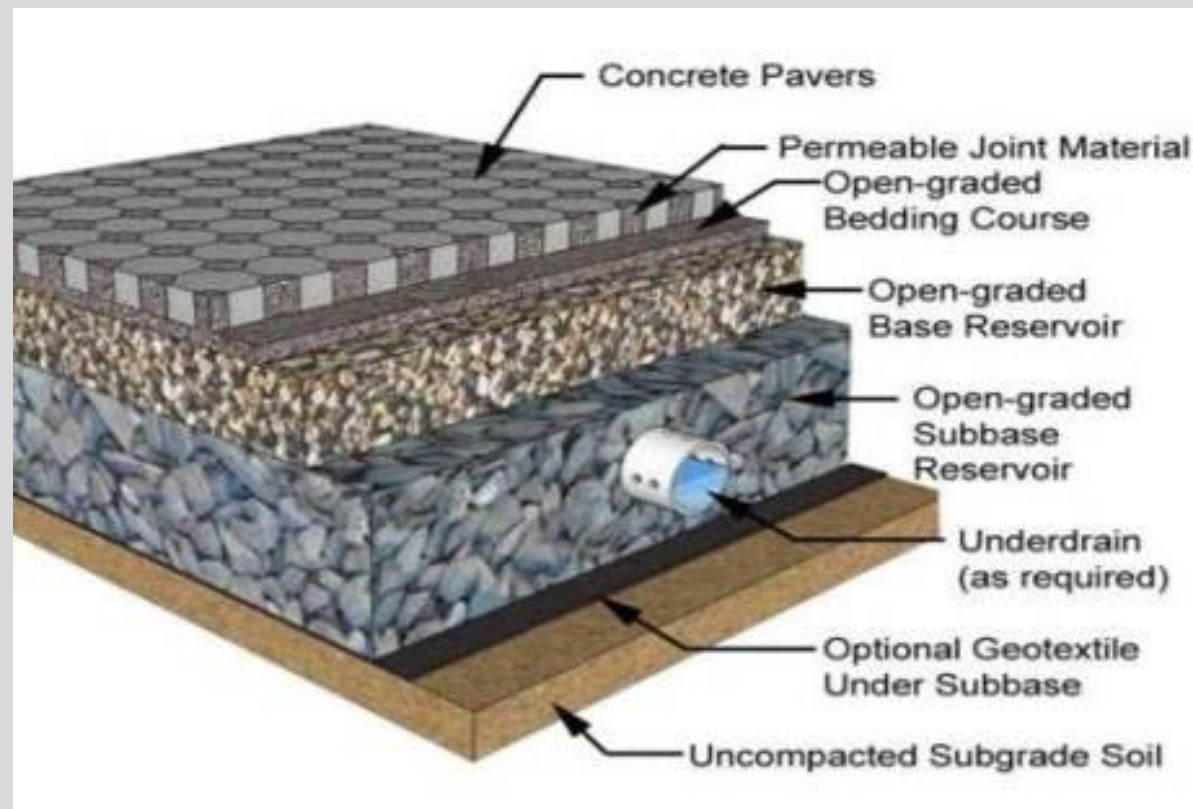
# Porous Pavement

## Design Strengths:

- Reduces Storm Volume
- Reduces Peak Flows
- Particulate Pollutant Removal

## Design Challenges:

- Getting both strength and permeability
- Protective buffer reduces siltation from offsite flows
- Maintenance







Technology Building  
University of Hawaii



# Floating Treatment Wetlands

## Design Strengths:

Nutrient Removal

Provides Habitat

Increase Biodiversity

Moderates Wave Action

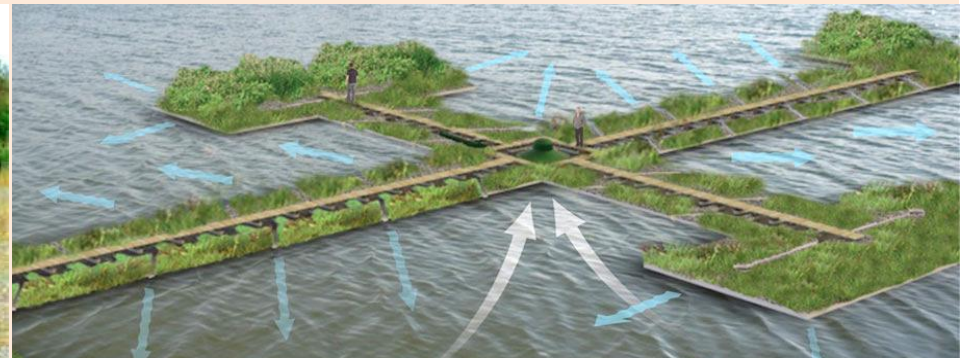
Reduces Shore Erosion

## Design Challenges:

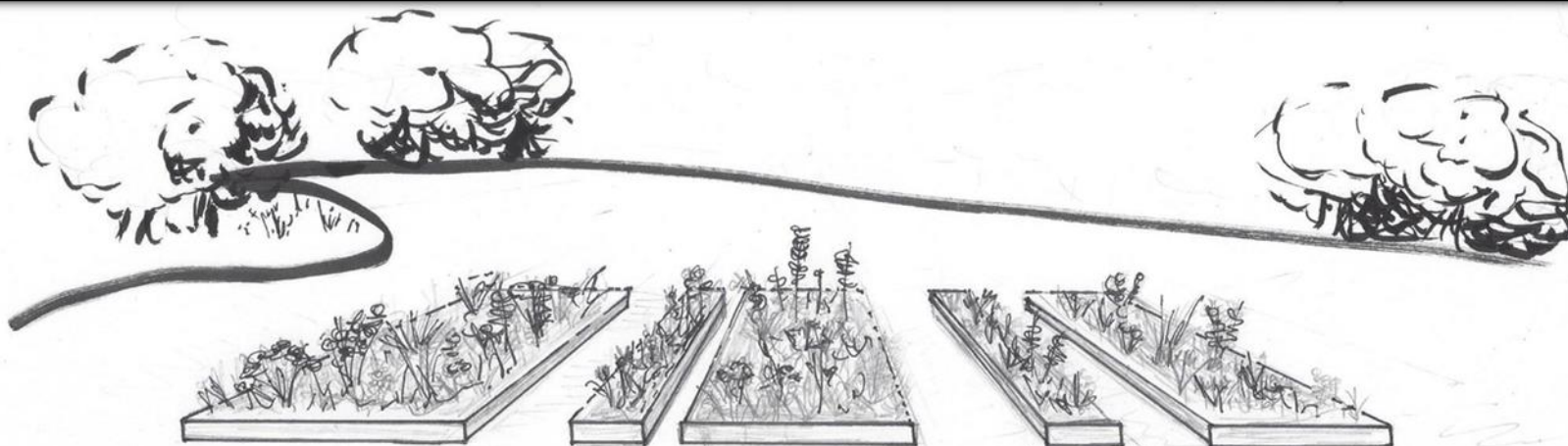
Maintenance Logistics



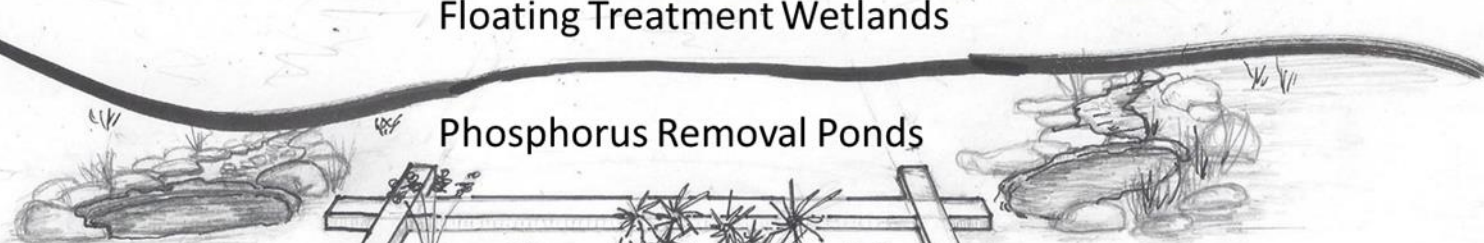
Photo Credit: Floating Islands International





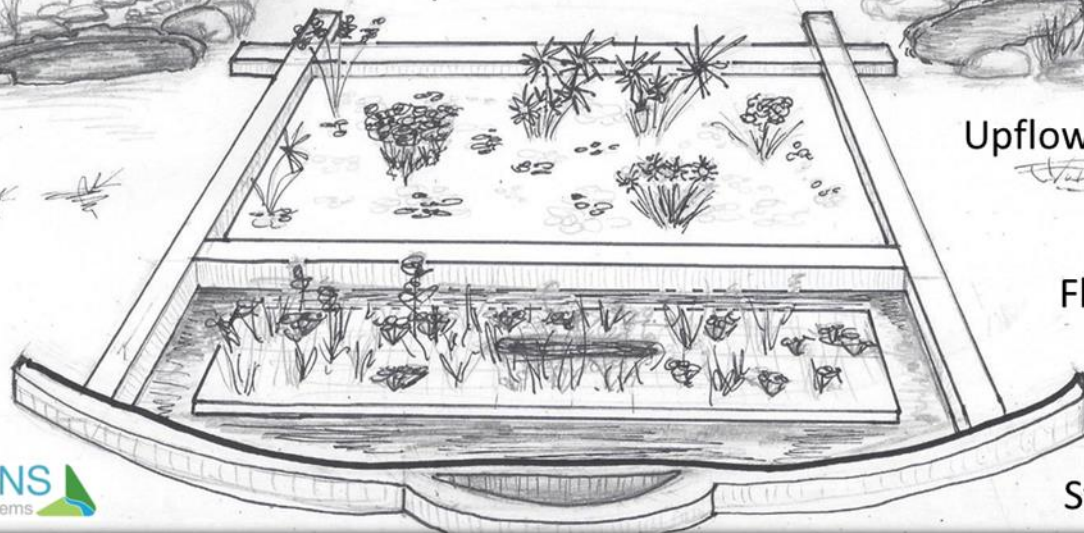


Floating Treatment Wetlands



Phosphorus Removal Ponds

Upflow Gravel Wetland

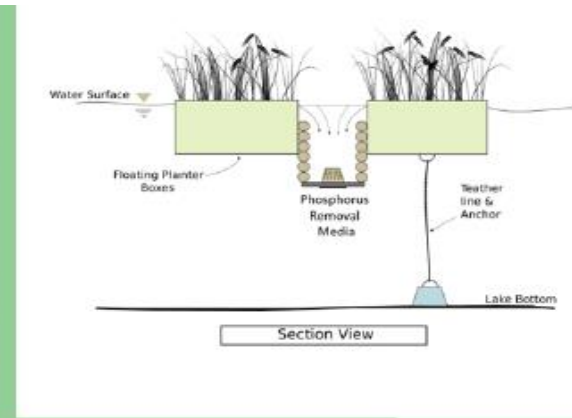
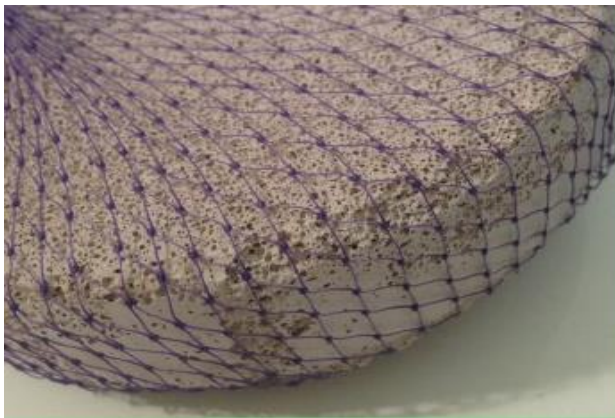


Floating Treatment Wetland

Stilling Basin

renewage

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NORTH BEACH, VERMONT

# RESEARCH SITE

EcoSolutions, LLC

Lake Champlain

## Restoration Technologies

Lake Champlain is plagued by excess nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. These nutrients contribute to harmful algae blooms. Technologies such as Floating Treatment Wetland equipped with Phosphorus Removal & Recovery systems may provide a sustainable solution.

ECOSOLDESIGNS . C O M



The City of Burlington is partnering with EcoSolutions, LLC, a Vermont based engineering firm specializing in restoration technologies, to trial innovative solutions that will help restore Lake Champlain.

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# Bioretention

## Rain Gardens

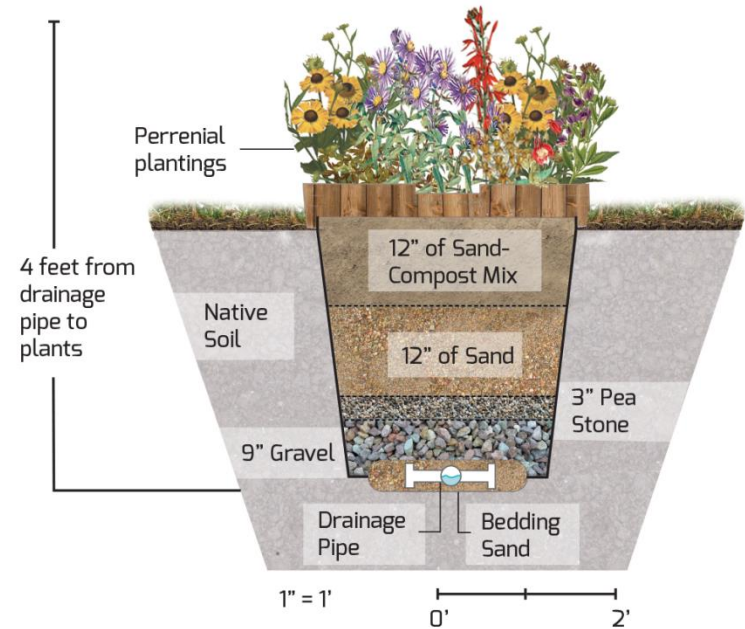
## Green Streets

### Design Strengths:

- Reduces Volume & Peak Flows
- Removes Total Suspended Solids
- Removes Nutrients
- Improved Aesthetics

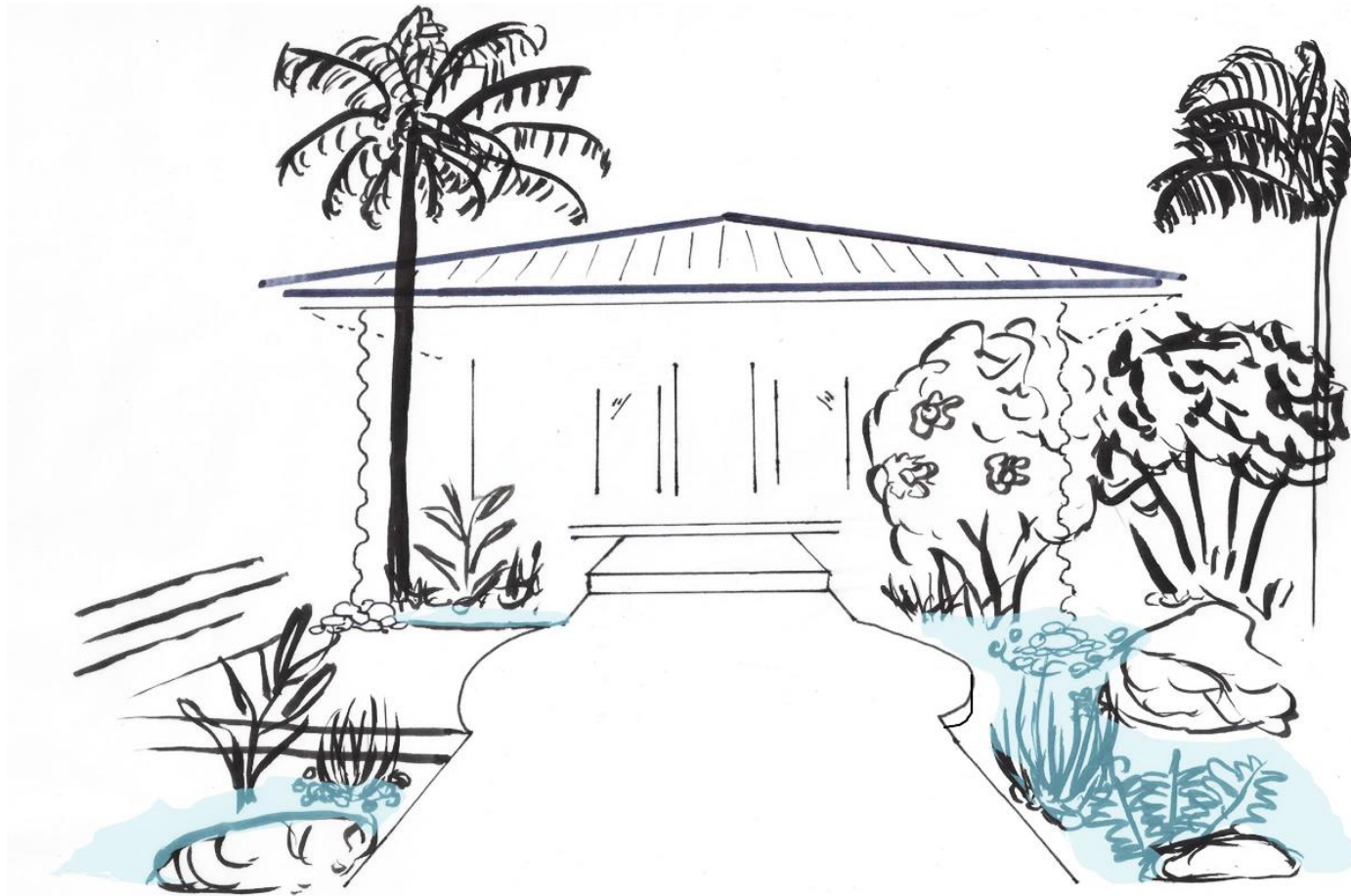
### Design Challenges:

- Obtaining proper infiltration
- Directing flow into feature
- Maintenance





# Residential Bioretention

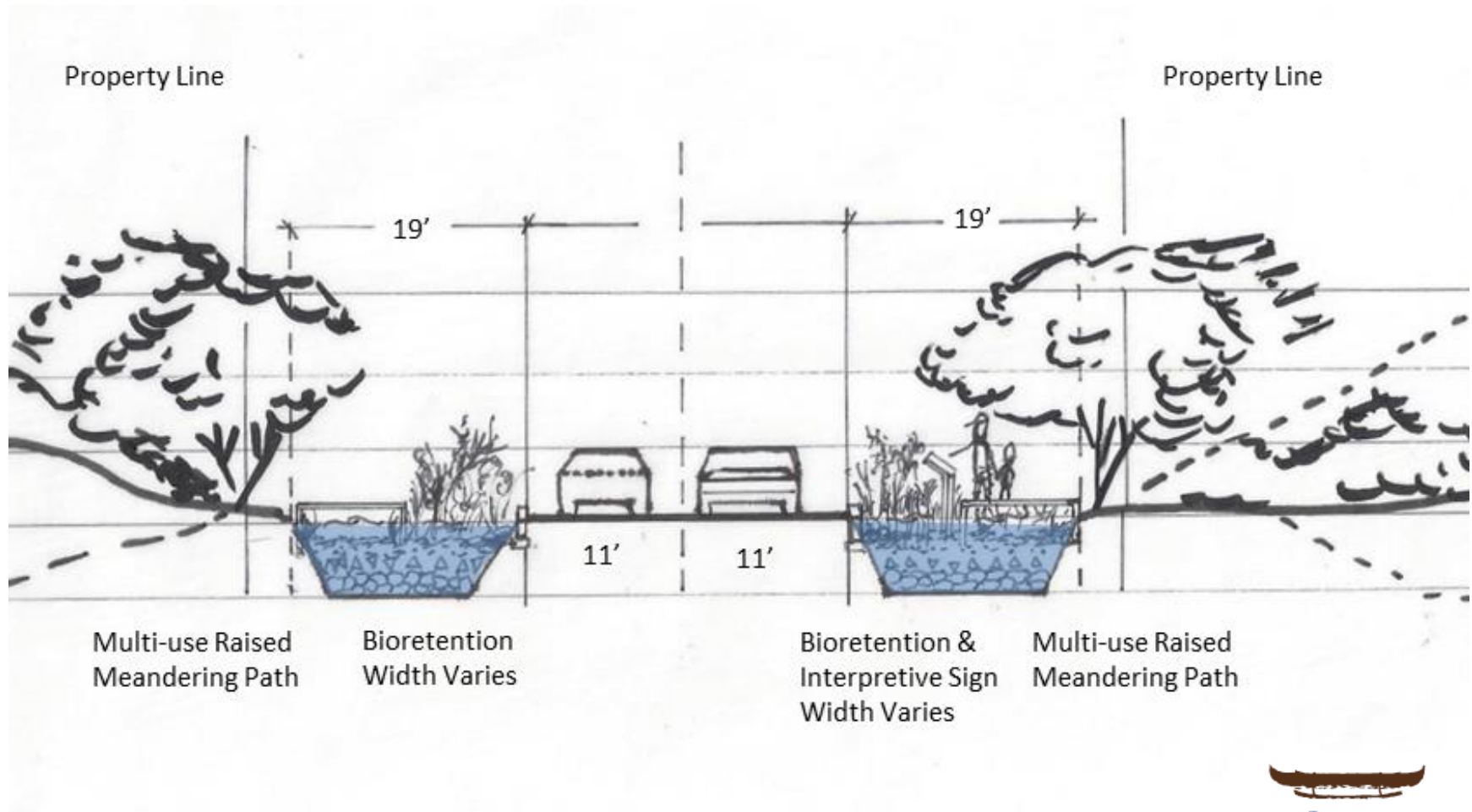


MĀKENA  
GOLF & BEACH CLUB

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# Bioretention Green Streets



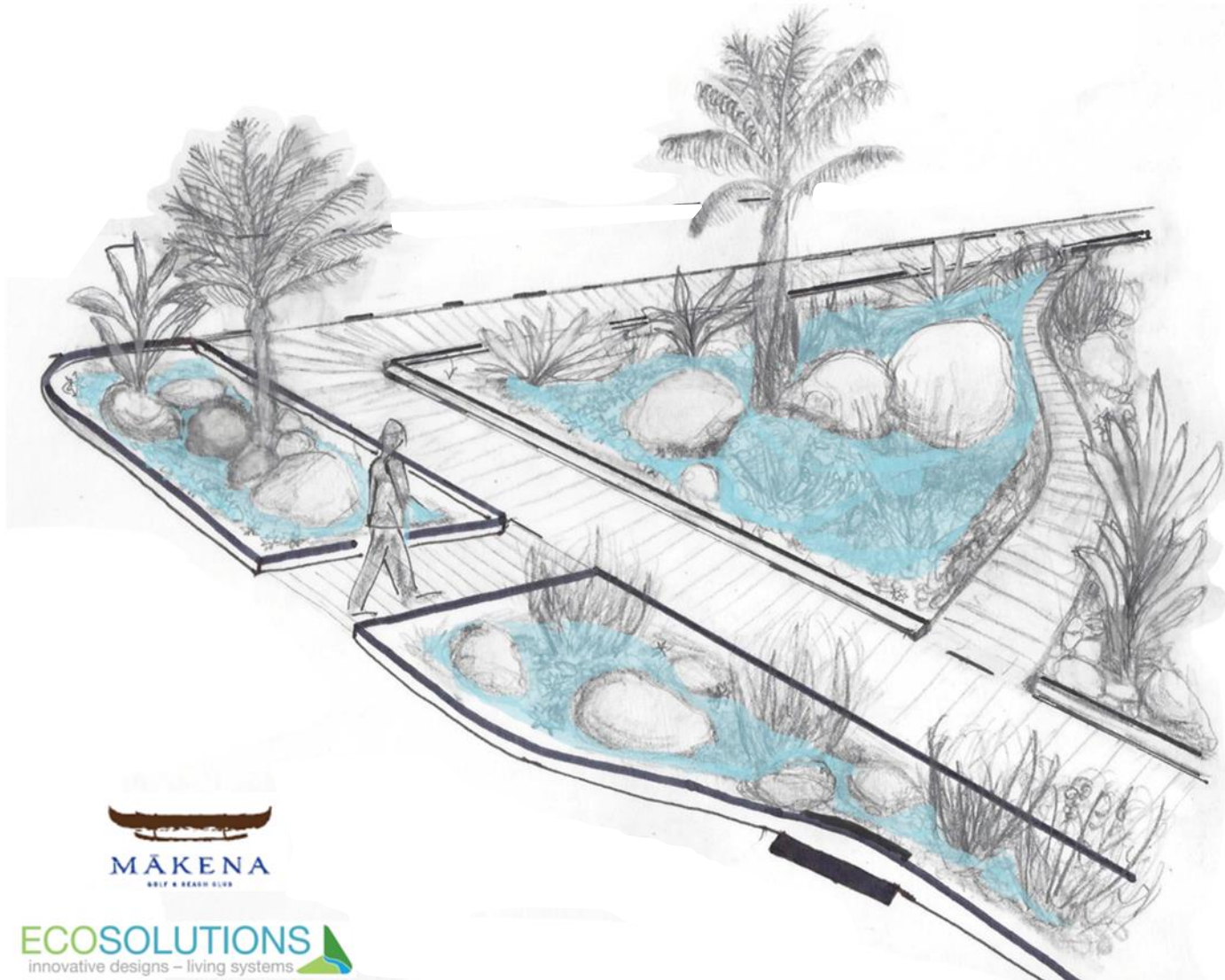




Rendering Produced by Jeff Brink



# Bioretention Green Streets



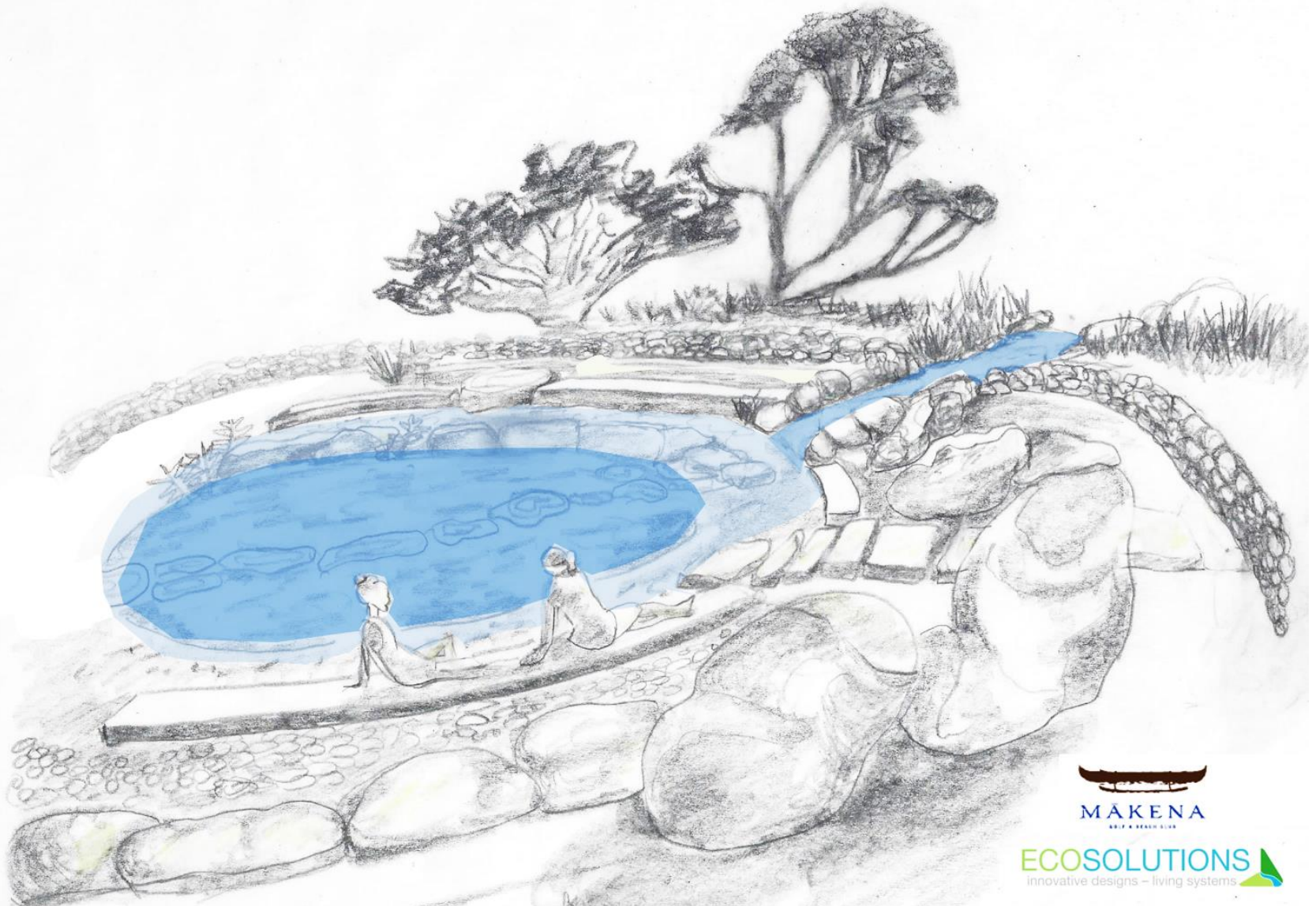




Rendering Produced by Jeff Brink



# Neighborhood Scale Bioretention



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Commercial Scale Bioretention  
NOMA District Washington, DC

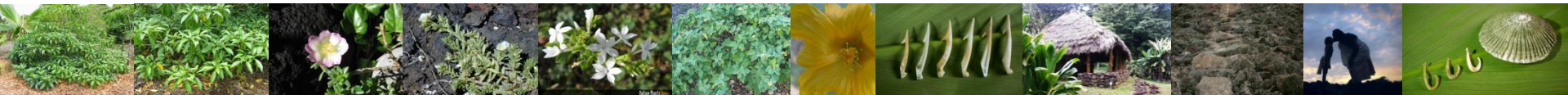


# Community Scale LID: Resort Basemap



Required to **retain**:

- 100% of the 2.5" (50-yr, 1-hr) storm event





# Community Scale LID: Basemap



## Bioretention & porous materials can retain + treat:

- 100% of the 2.5" (50-yr, 1-hr) storm event
- 100% of the 3.0" (100-year, 1-hr) storm event





# Collect Data to Verify Effectiveness





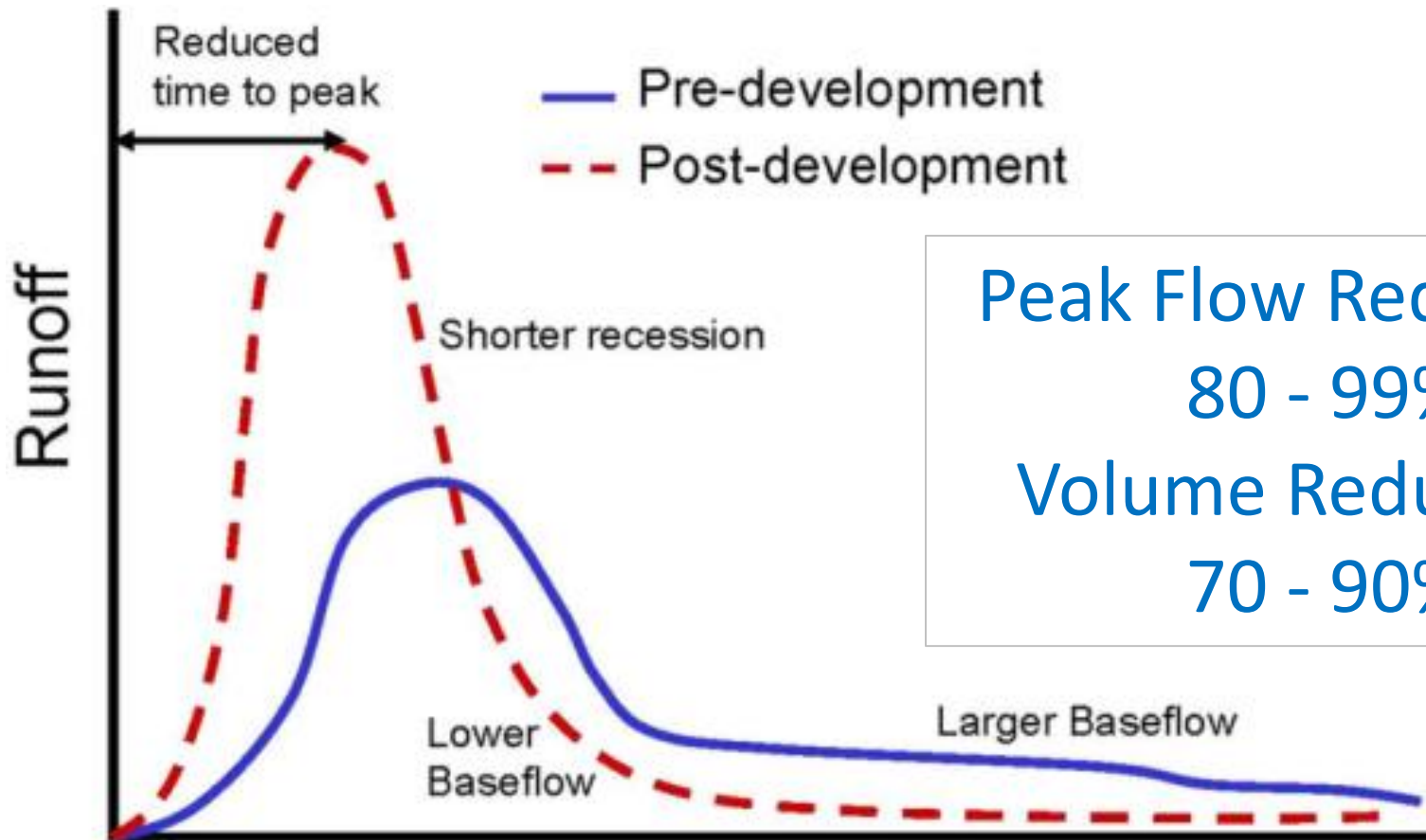


## **Pollutants Found in Stormwater:**

bacteria  
pathogens  
cadmium  
chromium  
copper  
lead  
mercury  
zinc  
phosphorus  
nitrogen  
oil and grease  
total suspended solids



# Bioretention: Hydrologic Performance



Peak Flow Reduction:  
80 - 99%

Volume Reduction:  
70 - 90%





# Bioretention: Sediment Removal

Removal of  
Total Suspended Solids:  
70% - 99%



Brown and Hunt (2011); Bratieres et al. (2008); Hatt et al. (2008)





# Stormwater Pollutant Concentrations

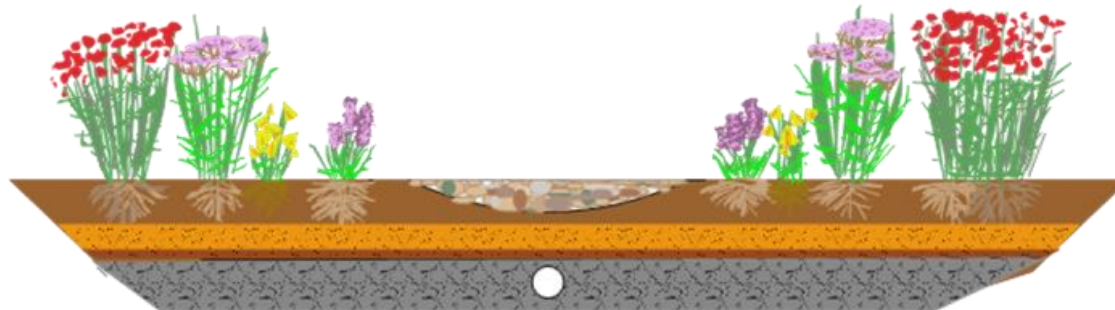
Author	TP	NLP	SRP	TN	TKN	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	TSS
	µg L <sup>-1</sup>	µg L <sup>-1</sup>	µg L <sup>-1</sup>	µg L <sup>-1</sup>	µg L <sup>-1</sup>	µg L <sup>-1</sup>	mg L <sup>-1</sup>
Dietz and Clausen (2005)	19	-	-	1,200	700	500	-
Alias et al. (2014)	74	-	-	1,170	-	-	41
Hunt et al. (2006)	105	52	53	1,310	880	420	-
Geosyntec (2012)	110	100	10	1,250	940	260	38
Bratieres et al. (2008)	427	300	127	2,210	-	790	160
Brezonik and Stadelmann (2002)	580	380	200	3,080	2,620	530	184
Davis (2007)	1,200	-	-	-	-	133	37
Range	19 – 1,200	52 – 380	10 - 200	940 – 3,080	700 – 2,620	133 – 790	38 - 184

Total Nitrogen (TN) = Total Keldahl Nitrogen (TKN) + Nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>)

Total Phosphorus(TP) = Non-Labile Phosphorus (NLP) + Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (SRP)

# Average Bioretention Outflow Concentrations

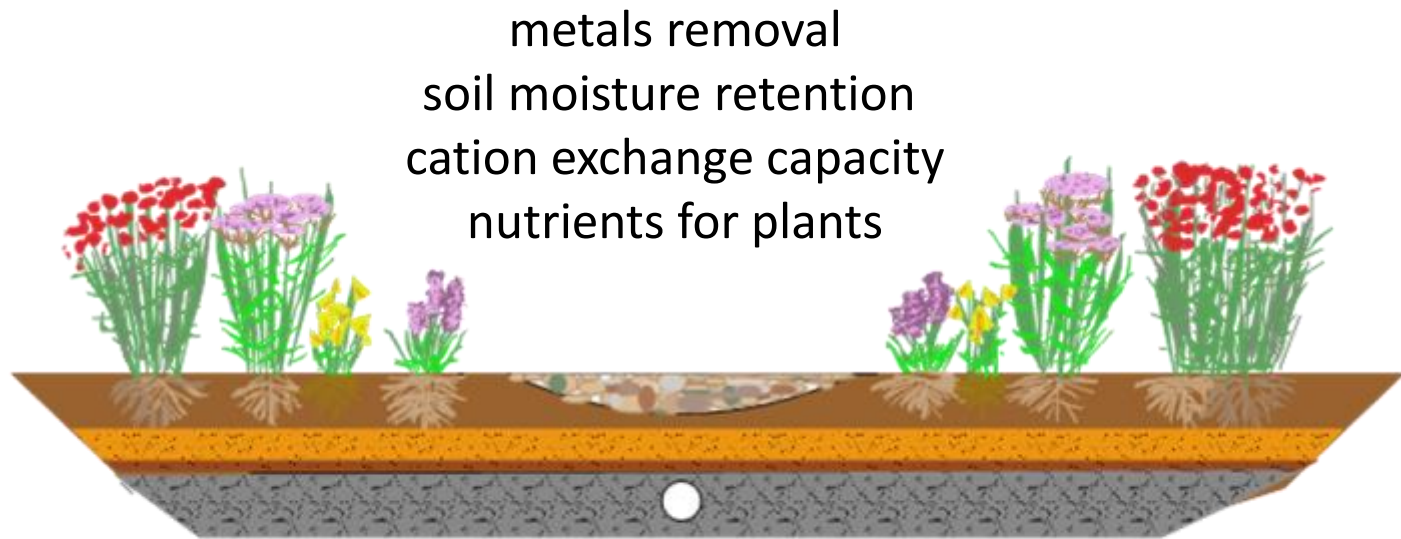
Parameter	Literature	Reference
NLP	40 – 800 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$	Hunt et al. (2006)
SRP	210 – 670 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$	Geosyntec (2008)
SRP	140 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$	Chardon et al. (2005) (Iron Coated Sand)
	< 10 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$	O'Neill and Davis (2011) (WWT Residual)
$\text{NO}_3^-$	300 – 400 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$	Dietz and Clausen (2006)
TKN	1,240 – 1,780 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$	Geosyntec (2008)
TSS	15 – 33 $\text{mg L}^{-1}$	Geosyntec (2008)





# Inconsistent Nutrient Removal

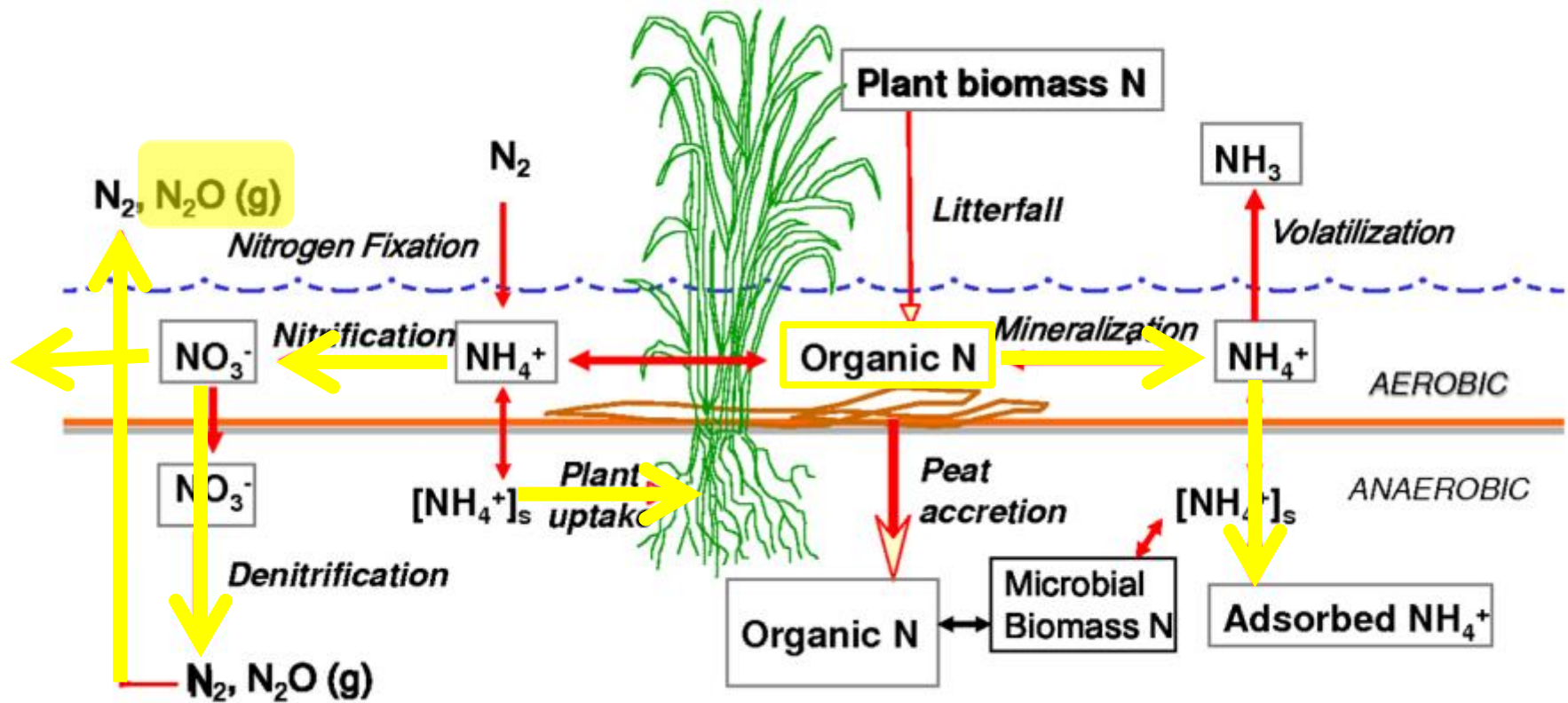
- Some of the variability could be attributed to soil media selected
- Sand based bioretention soil designs are common
- Organic amendments (compost, mulch) are recommended for:



Bratieres et al. 2008; DeBusk and Wynn 2011; Michigan Department of Environmental Quality 2008; Thompson et al. 2008; Vermont Agency of Natural Resources 2002; Washington State University Pierce County Extension 2012.



# Nitrogen Removal Mechanisms



\*Mn (II) may also reduce  $NO_3^-$  via chemo-denitrification

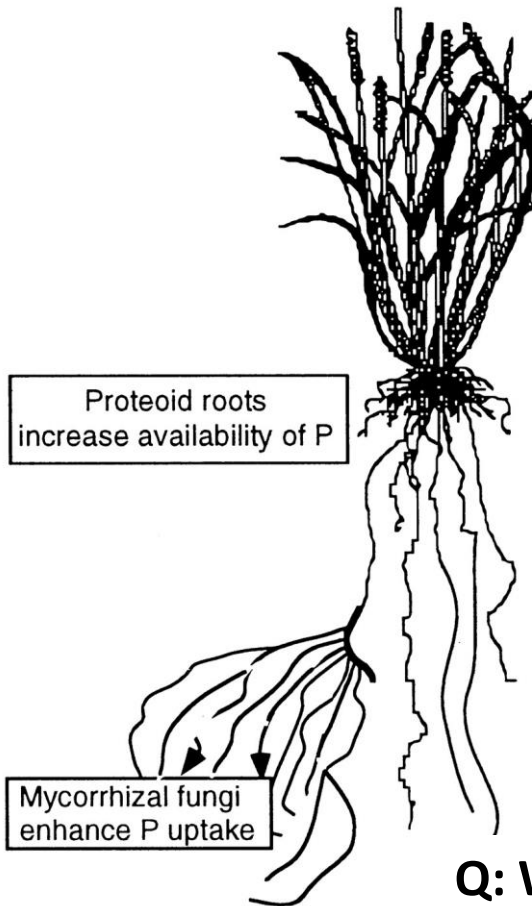
Q: Which mechanisms are dominant in bioretention?

Q: How can we maximize removal through design?

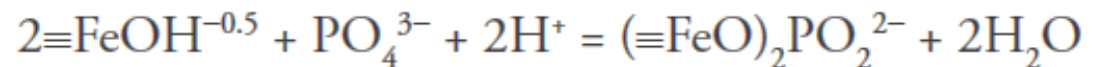
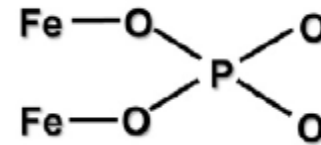
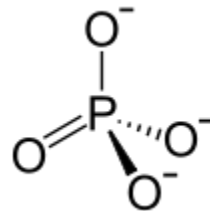




# Phosphorus Removal Mechanisms



1. Physical Filtration: Non-labile P (NLP)
2. Sorption of SRP: Fe, Ca, and Al in Soil



3. Plant Uptake: SRP

**Q: Which mechanisms are dominant in bioretention?**

**Q: How can we maximize removal mechanisms through design?**

# Soil Media Designed to Remove P

Reference	Media	Composition	Ca	Fe	Al	SRP	TP Removal (%)
Liu et al. (2014)	TerraSolve	15% coir/peat mix, 9% hardwood mulch, 12% WTR, 58% sand	-	1,979	7,541	196	90– 99
	Virginia Institute of Technology Mixture	3% WTR, 15% saprolite, 25% compost, 57% sand	-	6,613	3,367	138	58 – 95
Stoner et al. (2012)	Industrial byproducts	Geothite, gypsum, calcite, quartz, portlandite	90 – 6,500	600 – 40,000	60 – 58,000	-	10 – 60
Arias et al. (2001)	Denmark Sands	Quartz sand	600	1,210	320	40	-
Chardon et al. (2005)	Iron-coated Sand	Iron-coated sand	6,100	198,000	620	3,400	94

\* All constituents are in mg kg<sup>-1</sup>



# Welcome to the University of Vermont Bioretention Laboratory



# University of Vermont Bioretention Laboratory



- Constructed by EcoSolutions in November of 2012
- Eight small paved road sub-watersheds
- Total area: 5,000 ft<sup>2</sup> or 0.1 acres
- Drainage Areas: 29.73 m<sup>2</sup> to 120.12 m<sup>2</sup>



# The Research Site





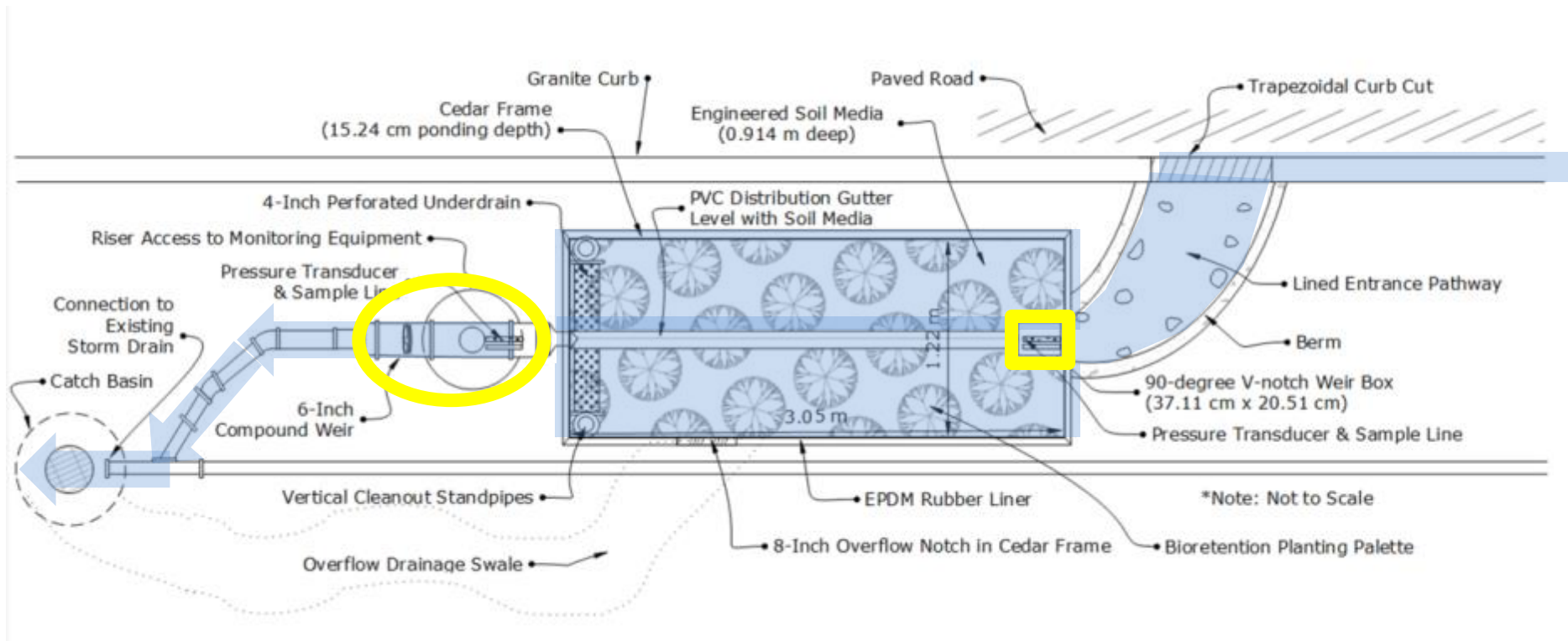
# Research Objectives:

1. How does one monitor bioretention effectiveness?
2. What design parameters dominate pollutant removal?





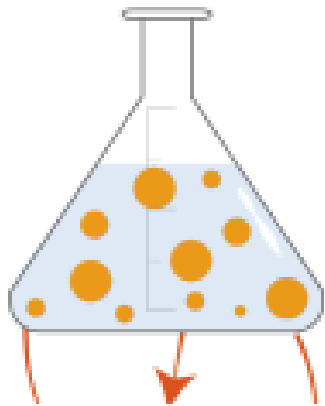
# Step 1: Monitoring Bioretention



# What Units Do I Want?

## Pollutant Concentration Vs. Mass Load

What do “concentration”  
and “load” mean?

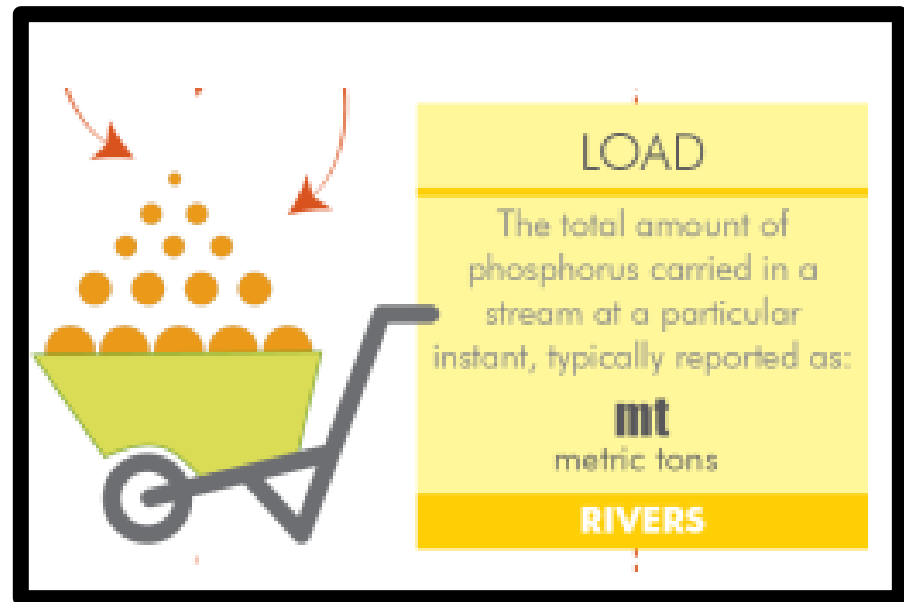


### CONCENTRATION

The amount of phosphorus  
measured in a unit volume  
of water, typically reported as:

**µg/L**  
micrograms per liter

**RIVERS OR LAKES**



### LOAD

The total amount of  
phosphorus carried in a  
stream at a particular  
instant, typically reported as:

**mt**  
metric tons

**RIVERS**

**\*Need to Measure Load to Assess Impaired Waters on 303(d) list**



**Large Volume = Low Concentration  
Yet Potentially Large Pollutant Mass  
Load Delivered Downstream**





# Converting Concentration to Mass with Numeric Integration

$$V = \int_{t_0}^{t_n} Q(t) dt$$

Where,

**V** = volume delivered during storm event (L)

**Q** = flow rate as a function of time ( $\text{L s}^{-1}$ )

$$M = \int_{t_0}^{t_n} C(t) Q(t) dt$$

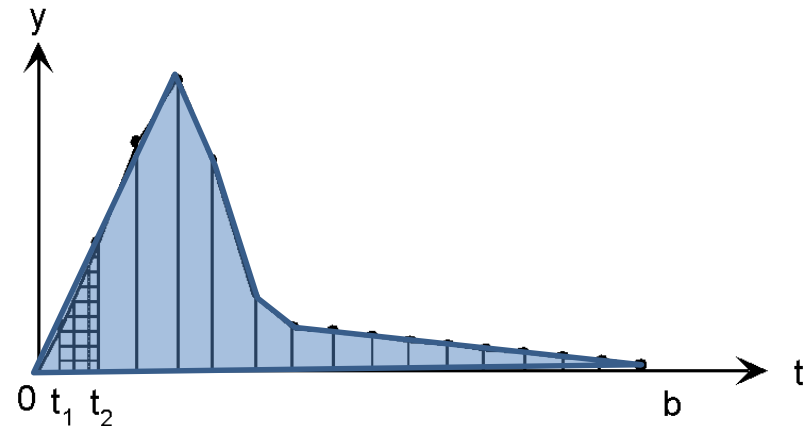
Where,

**M** = mass delivered during storm event ( $\mu\text{g}$  or  $\text{mg}$ )

**C** = concentration as a function of time ( $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ )

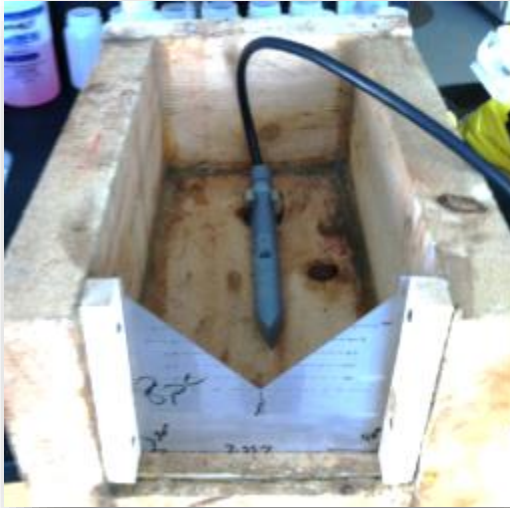
**Q** = flow rate as a function of time ( $\text{L s}^{-1}$ )

$$\text{Area} = (t_2 - t_1) \left[ \frac{f(t_1) + f(t_2)}{2} \right]$$

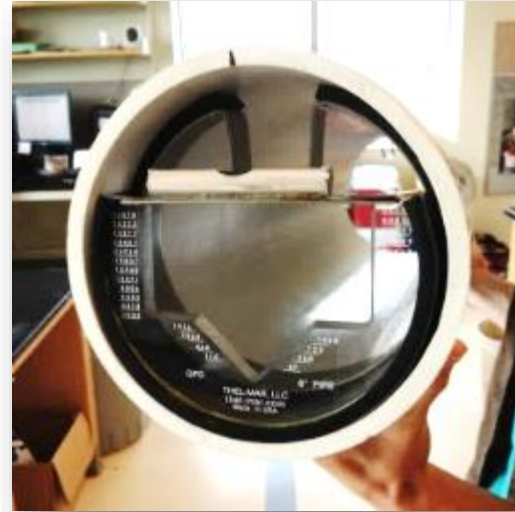




# How do you measure flow rate entering and exiting bioretention?



*Inflow 90° Weir Box*



*Outflow Thel-Mar™ Weir*

$$Q=CH^n$$

*Where:*

Q = flow rate over the weir (cfs, L s<sup>-1</sup>)

C= coefficient of discharge, or weir coefficient

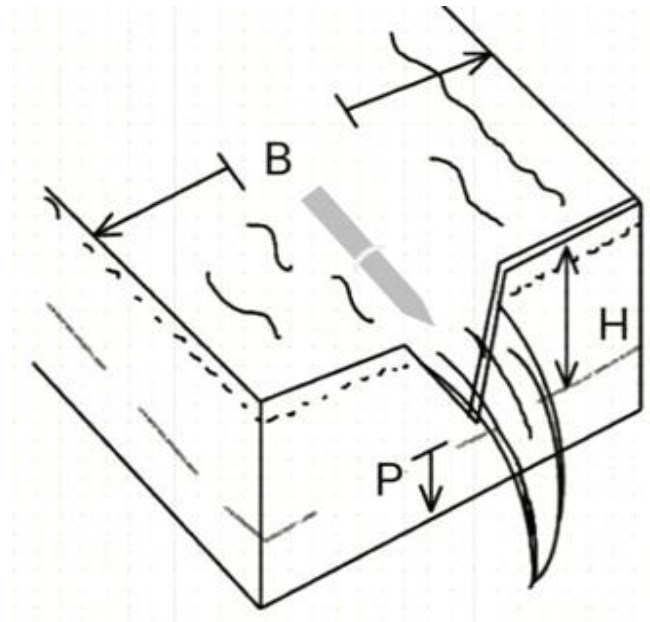
H= height of water behind the weir (pressure transducer)

n = an empirical exponent (dimensionless)

# Measuring Road Runoff



Weir thickness = 1.59 mm stainless steel  
Teledyne™ ISCO Model 720 Pressure Transducer

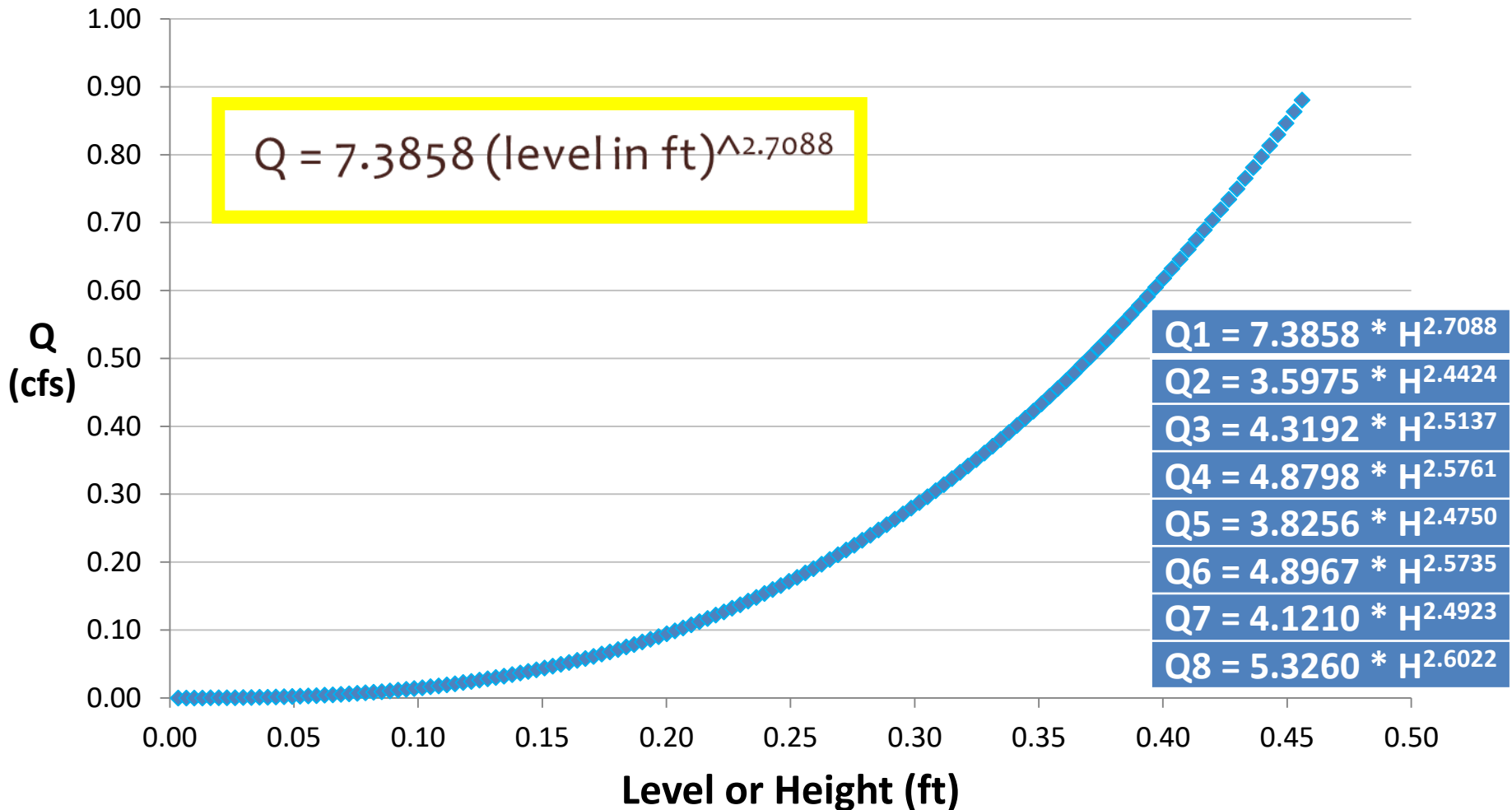


Maximum Capacity = 10.05 L

ASTM – D5242; U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (2001)

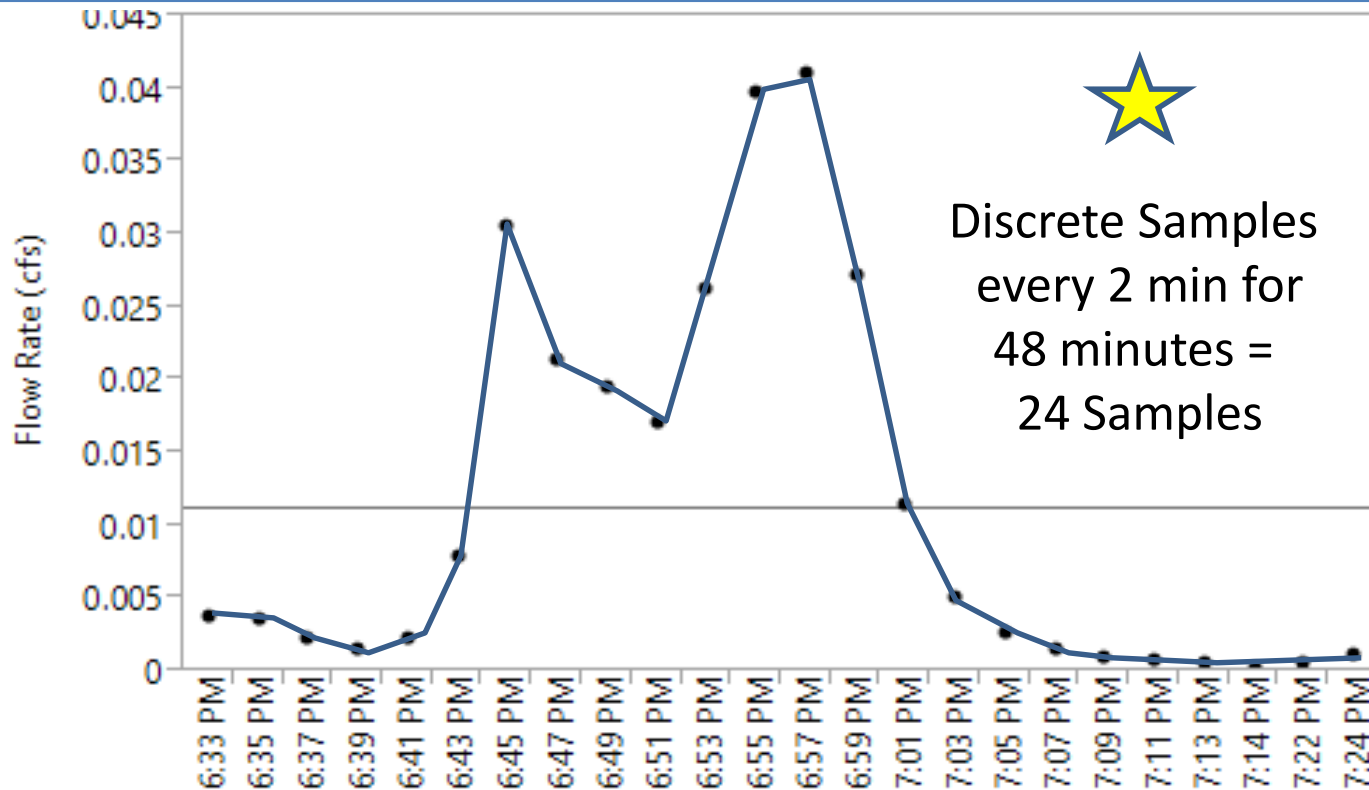


# Developing a Weir Rating Curve



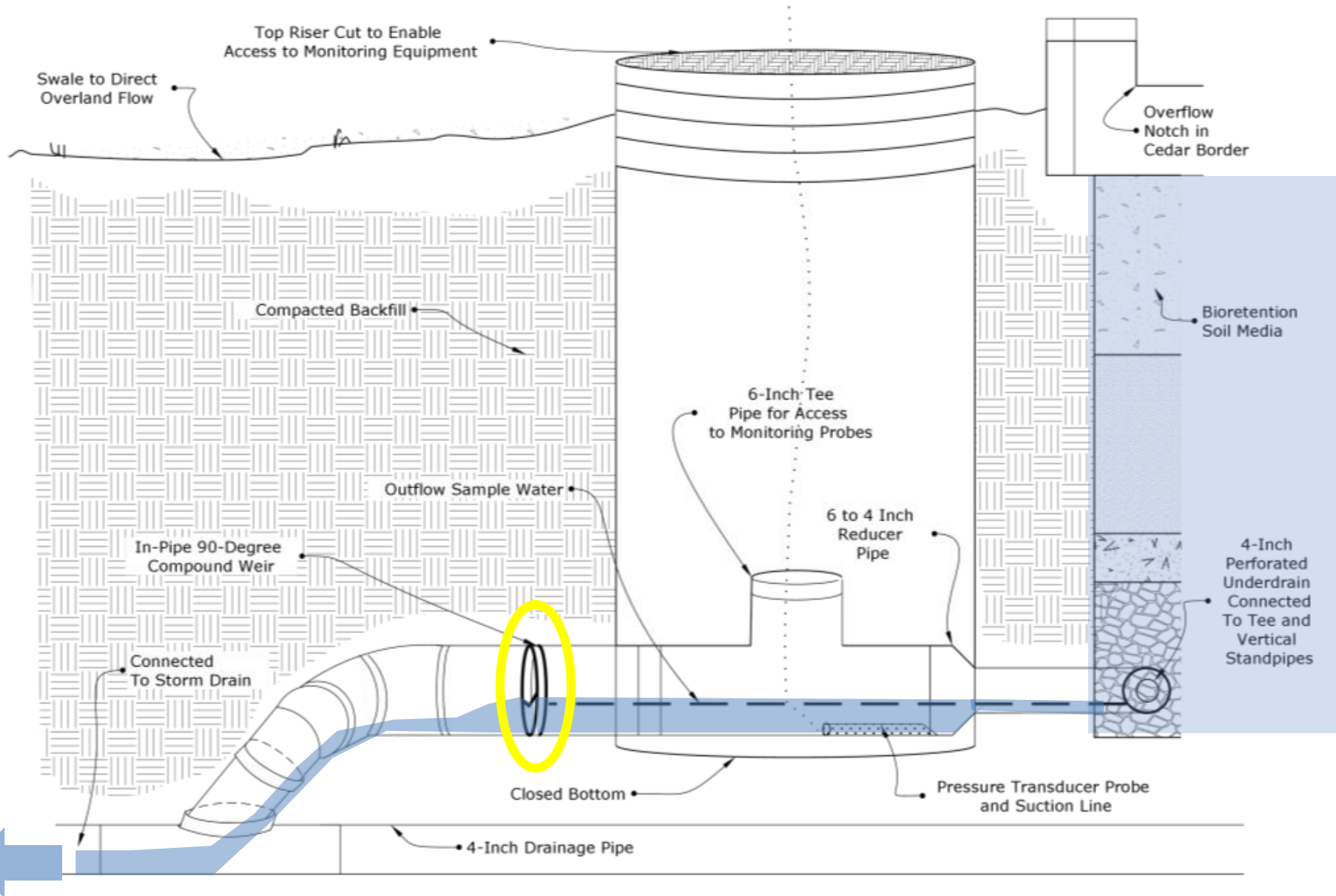
# Take Multiple Samples within the Inflow Hydrograph

$$Time = \frac{\text{watershed area} \times \text{rainfall depth}}{\text{peak flow rate}}$$





# Outflow Monitoring: In-Pipe Thel-Mar™ Weir



# Capturing the Outflow Hydrograph: Estimate Hydraulic Conductivity

$$K_z = \frac{D}{\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{d_i}{k_i}}$$

Where,

$K_z$  is the vertical hydraulic conductivity for the layered system ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ )

$D$  is the total cumulative depth of the layers (m)

$d_i$  is the depth of a given layer (m)

$k_i$  is the hydraulic conductivity of a given layer ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ )

$$K_x = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{K_i d_i}{d}$$

Where,

$K_x$  is the horizontal hydraulic conductivity ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ )

$d_i$  is the depth of a given layer (m)

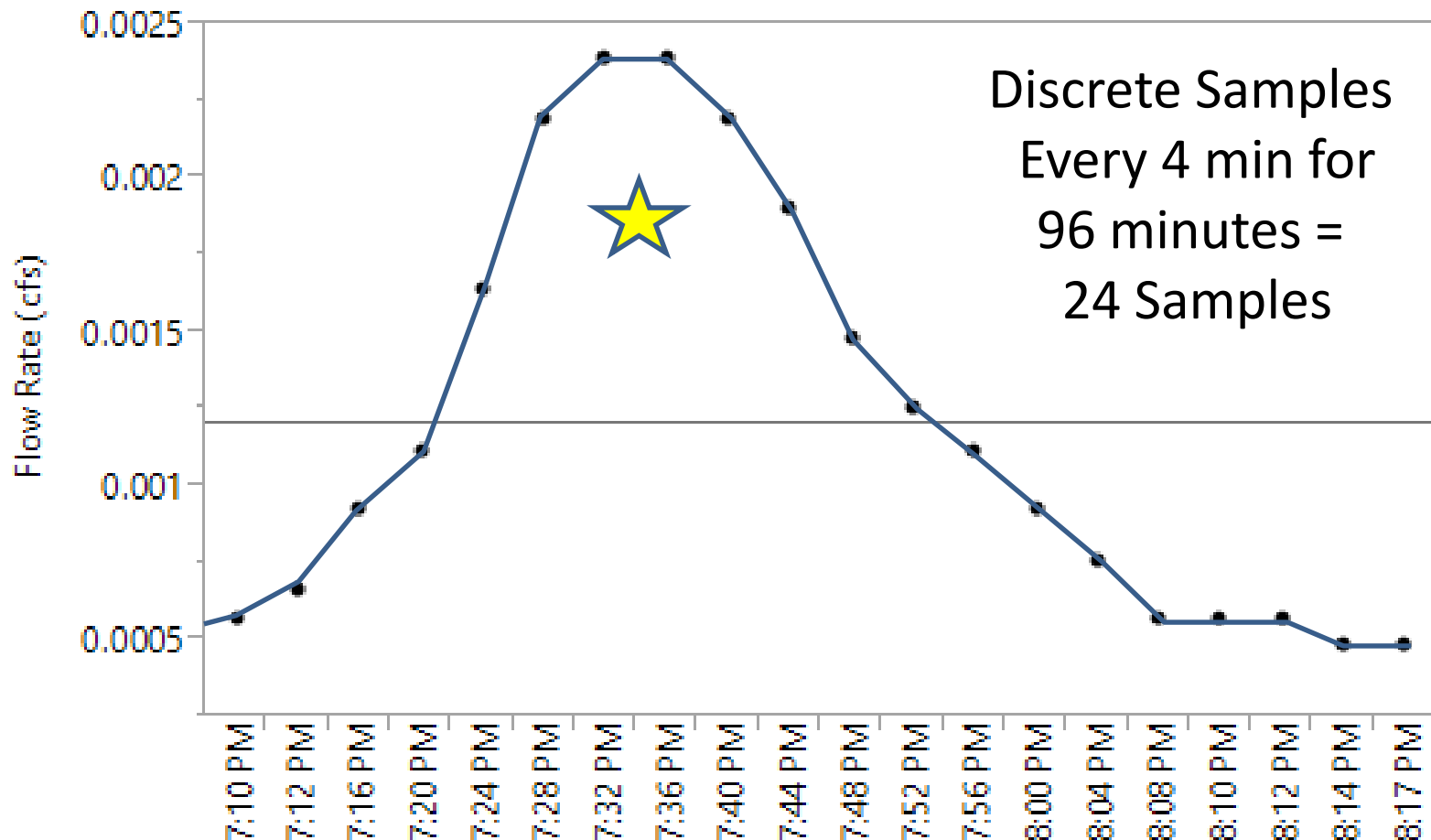
$K_i$  is the hydraulic conductivity of a given layer ( $\text{m s}^{-1}$ )

$d$  is the horizontal distance of the given layer (m)



# Sampling the Outflow Hydrograph

Time Needed to Monitor Outflow Hydrograph = 90 minutes



# Installing Outflow Monitoring Equipment



Photo Credit: Amanda Cording, Paliza Shrestha



# Numerous Design Factors that Affect Pollutant Removal Performance

Factor	Authors
1. Residence time	(Collins et al. 2010; Hurley and Forman 2011; Kadlec et al. 2010; Rosenquist et al. 2010)
2. Media depth	(Brown and Hunt 2011)
3. Vegetation type, root depth, root architecture	(Claassen and Young 2010; Collins et al. 2010; Davis et al. 2009; Kadlec et al. 2010; Lucas and Greenway 2008)
4. Soil organic matter content, use of mulch	(DeBusk and Wynn 2011; Fassman et al. 2013)
5. % sand, silt, and clay	(Liu et al. 2014)
6. Chemical characteristics of soil media (Fe, Ca, Al)	(Groenenberg et al. 2013; Vance et al. 2003)
7. Ponding depth, hydraulic conductivity, infiltration rate	(Thompson et al. 2008)
8. Inclusion of internal water storage (IWS) zones	(Chen et al. 2013; Dietz and Clausen 2006; Hunt et al. 2006)
9. Careful construction, maintenance	(Brown and Hunt 2011; Dietz and Clausen 2006)

# Step 2: Testing Bioretention Designs

## 1. Vegetation: Plant Palette 1 vs. Plant Palette 2



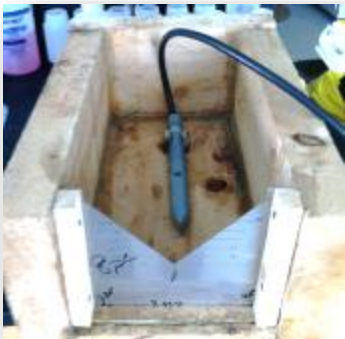
## 2. Soil Media: Conventional vs. Sorbtive Media™





# Methods: Measuring Stormwater Quality

Equipment	Parameter	Sampling and Analysis Methods
6700 Series Automatic Samplers (Teledyne™)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. TP</li> <li>2. NLP</li> <li>3. SRP</li> <li>4. TN</li> <li>5. TKN</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time Based</li> <li>• Discrete Samples</li> <li>• Based on the Hydrograph</li> <li>• Inflow = Every 2 min for 48 min (950 mL)</li> <li>• Outflow = Every 4 min for 96 min (500 mL)</li> </ul>
Model 720 Differential Pressure Pressure Transducer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. <math>\text{NO}_3^-</math></li> <li>7. TSS</li> <li>8. Flow Rate</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inflow to Outflow, 20-L increments (n = 6)</li> <li>• Outflow to Outflow, 20-L increments (n = 6)</li> <li>• Partial Event Mean Concentration (PEMC)</li> </ul>



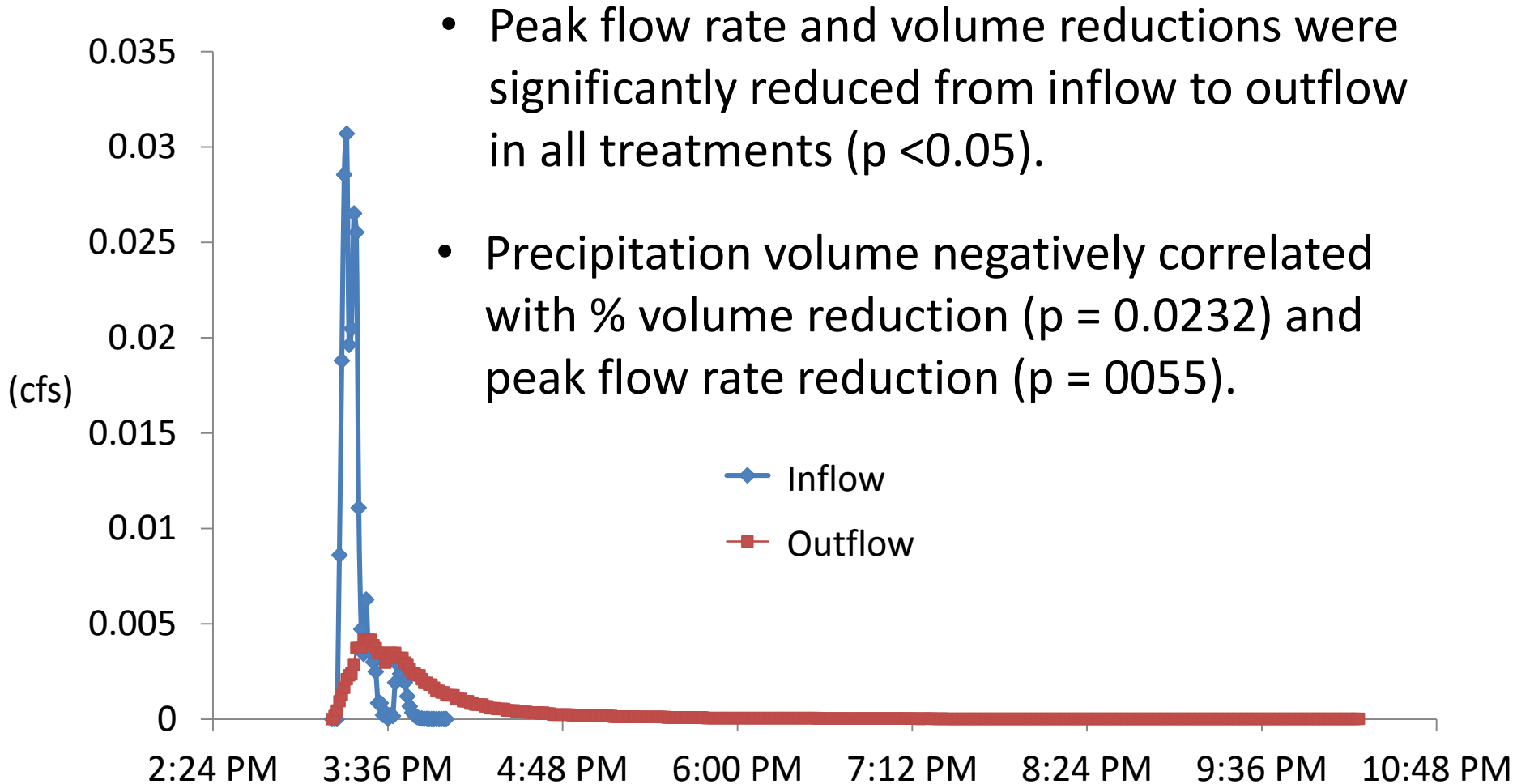
# Methods: Measuring Bioretention Soil Media Characteristics

Equipment	Parameter	Sampling Method
Soil auger	1. $\text{NH}_4^+$ (n = 13) and $\text{NO}_3^-$ (n = 13)	1. 2 M KCl extraction
Soil core cylinder	2. SRP (n = 7)	2. Modified Morgan
	3. Bulk Density (n = 11)	3. Change in mass /volume
	4. Ca, K, Mg, Na, S, Mn, Al, Fe, Zn, Cu (n = 7)	4. Inductively coupled plasma spectroscopy
Trowel	5. Cation exchange capacity (CEC)	5. Ammonium acetate
	6. Organic matter content (n = 7)	6. Loss on ignition (375°C)
	7. Volumetric water content	7. Soil probe (Every 5 min)
Decagon soil probes	8. Electrical conductivity	
	9. Soil temperature	
		<b>3 composited sub-samples per bioretention cell</b>

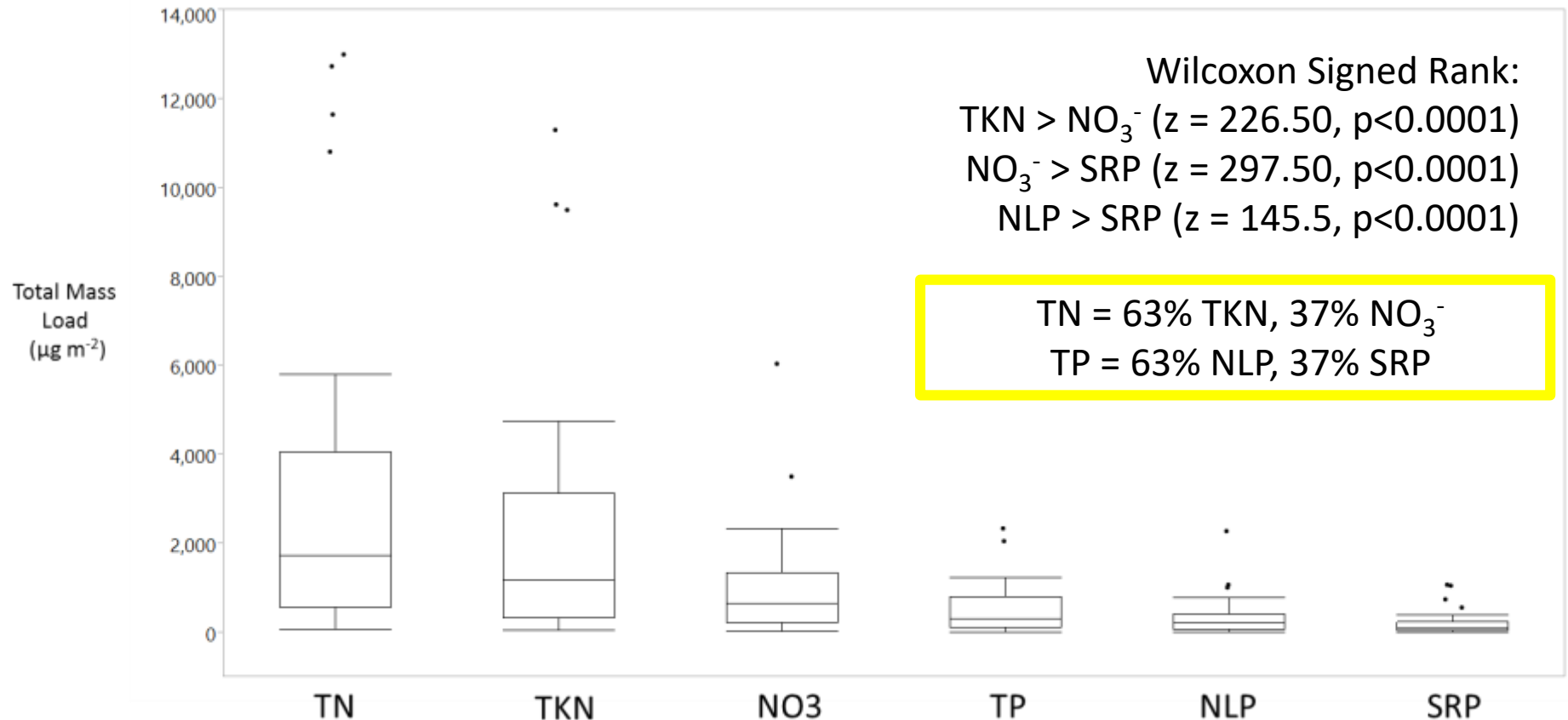




# Hydrologic Performance Results



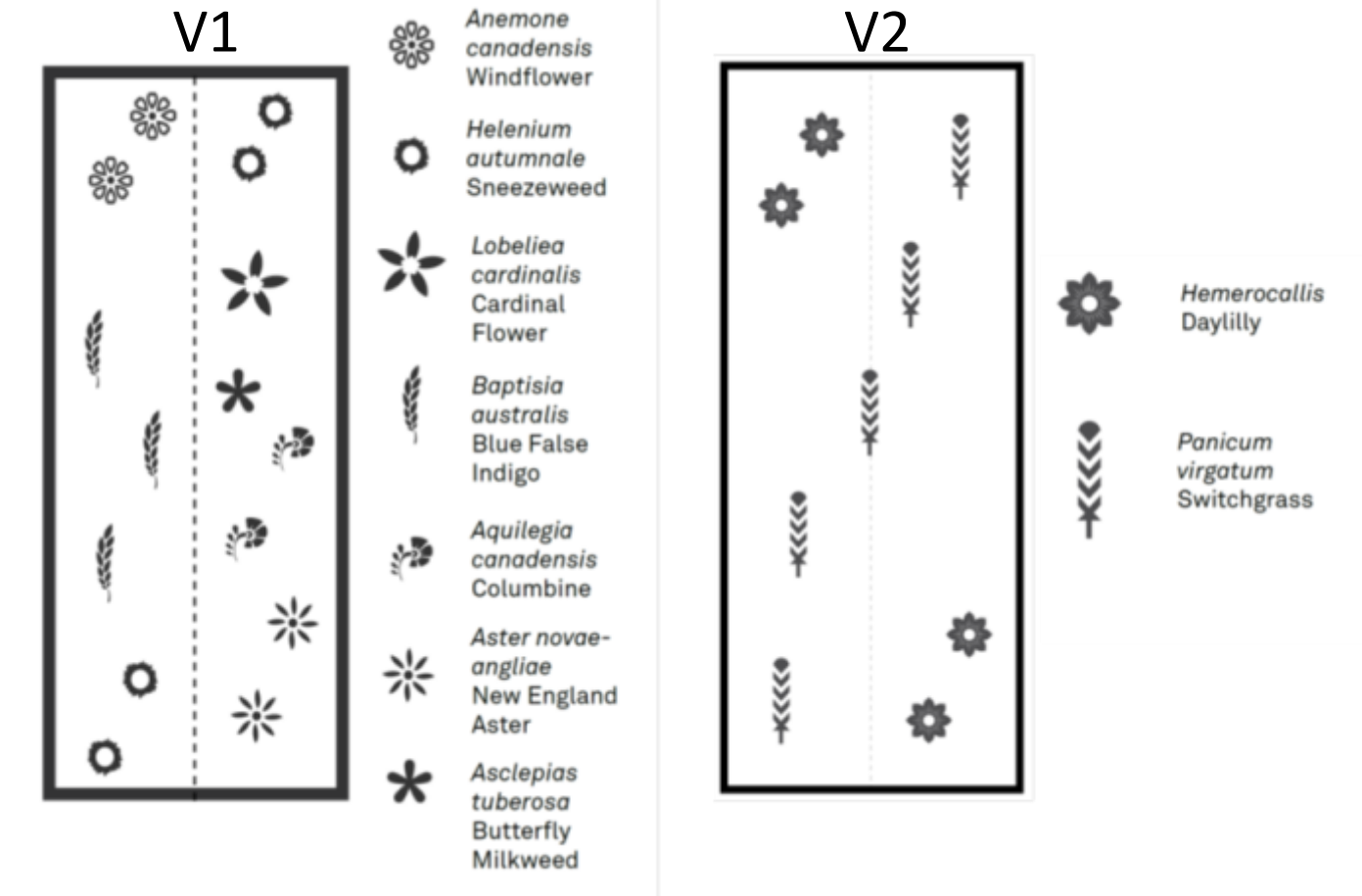
# Relative Dominance of N and P Constituents in Stormwater



**Box plot of cumulative stormwater mass load delivered across all watershed event (n = 35) for each nutrient constituent.**



# Comparing Vegetation Treatments



Vegetation Palette 1 (left) and Vegetation Palette 2 (right)

(Diagram created by S. Hurley and A. Zeitz, unpublished).

# Vegetation 1 (V1)

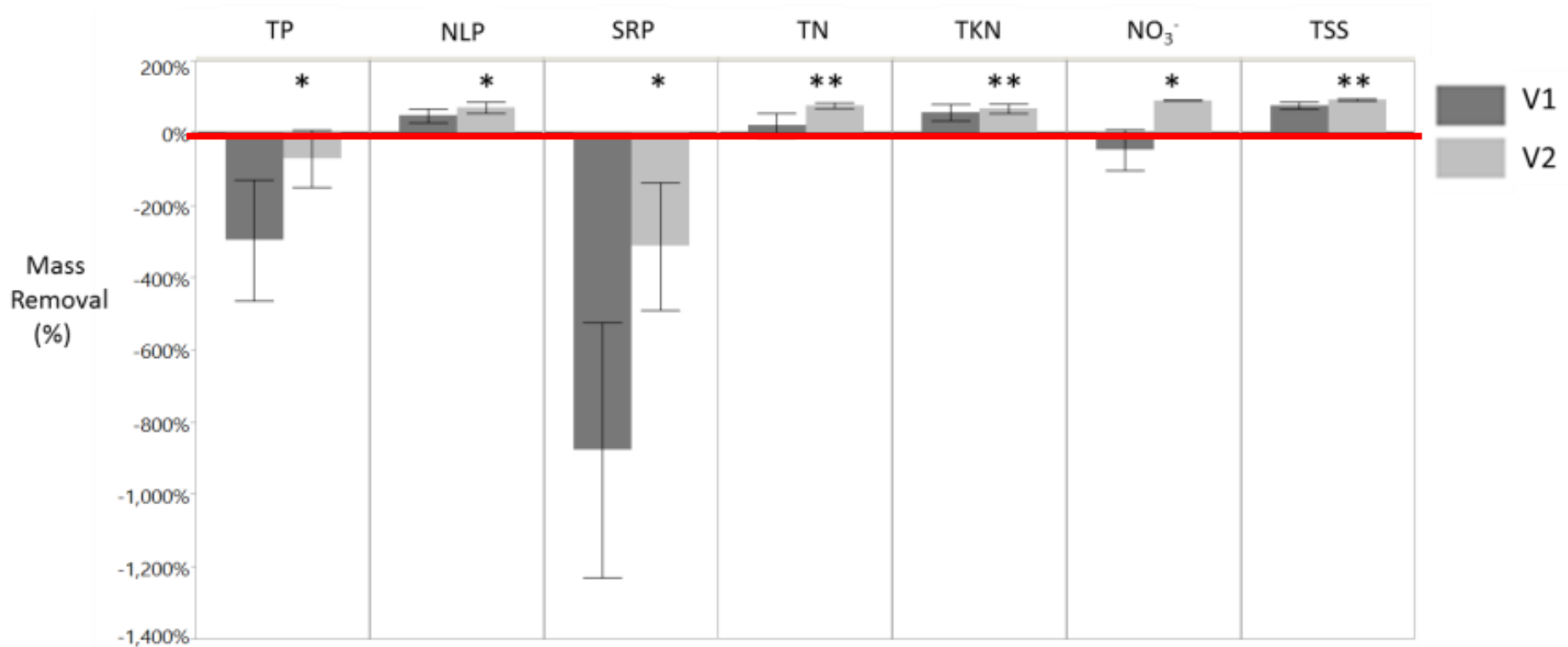




# Vegetation 2 (V2)



# Comparing Vegetation Treatments



ns =  $p > 0.05$ , \* =  $p \leq 0.05$ , \*\* =  $p \leq 0.01$ , \*\*\* =  $p \leq 0.001$ , \*\*\*\* =  $p \leq 0.0001$ .

**Paired t-test ( $n = 6$ ) results indicate that V2 retained a higher pollutant mass load than V1 for all constituents**



# Discussion: Differences Between Treatments

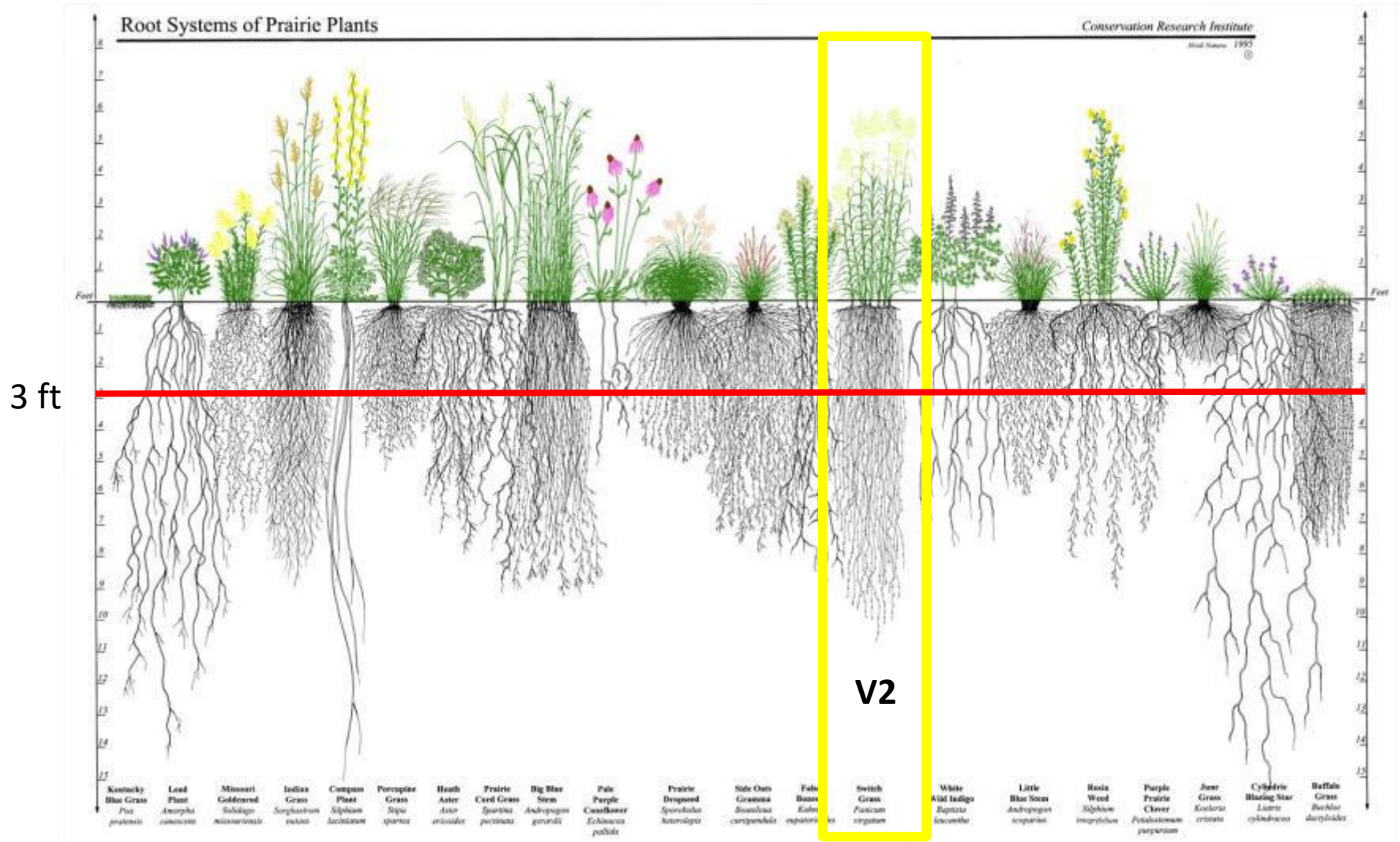
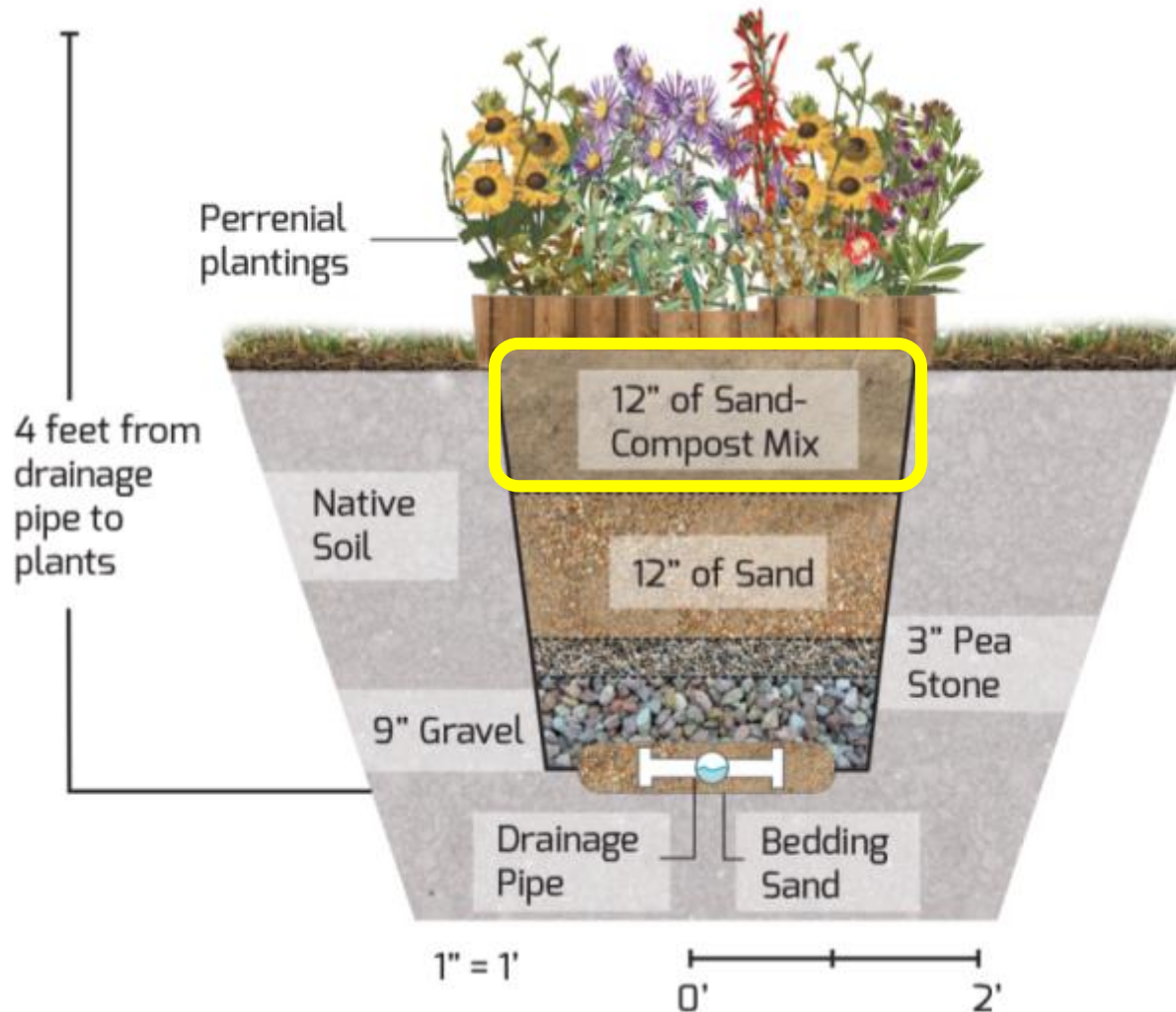


Image Source: Conservation Research Institute; Mann et al. (2013)

# Conventional Bioretention Media Design



Recommended By:

1. Vermont Agency  
of Natural  
Resources (2002)

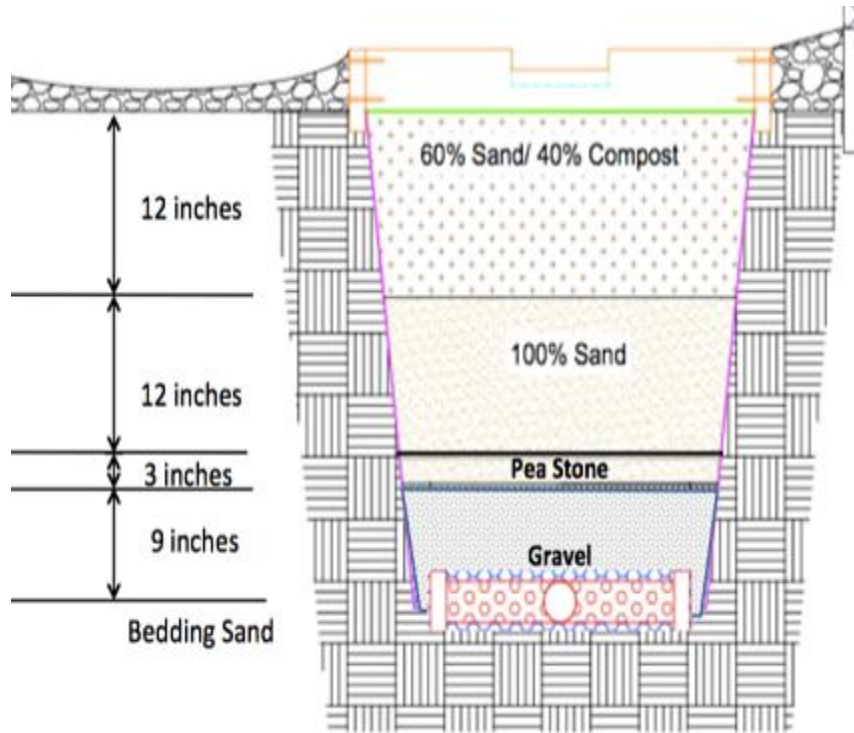
2. Washington  
State University  
Pierce County  
Extension (2012)

3. Center for  
Watershed  
Protection

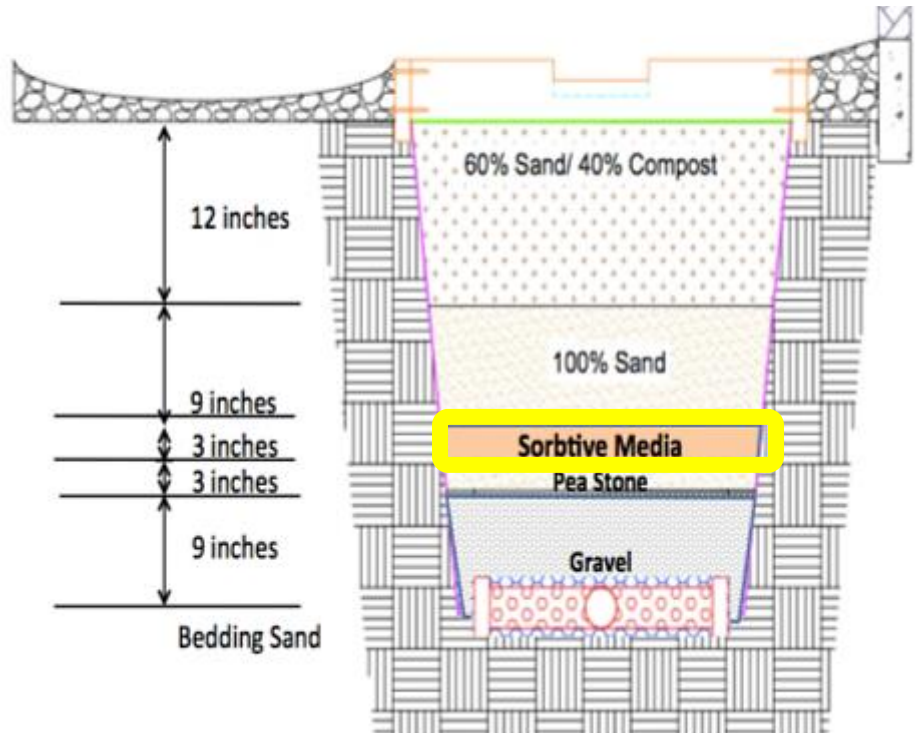


# Comparing Soil Media Treatments

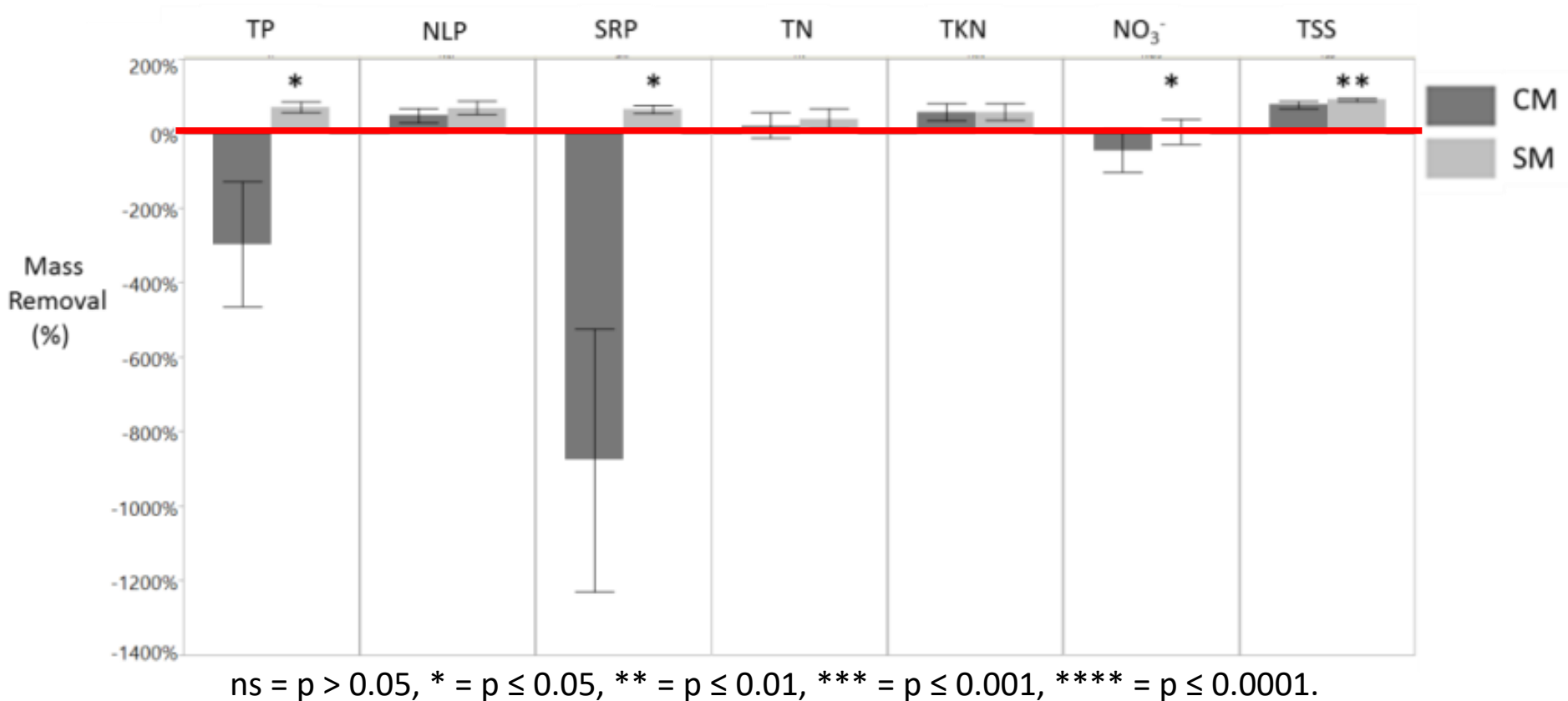
## Conventional Media (CM)



## Sorbitive Media™ (SM)



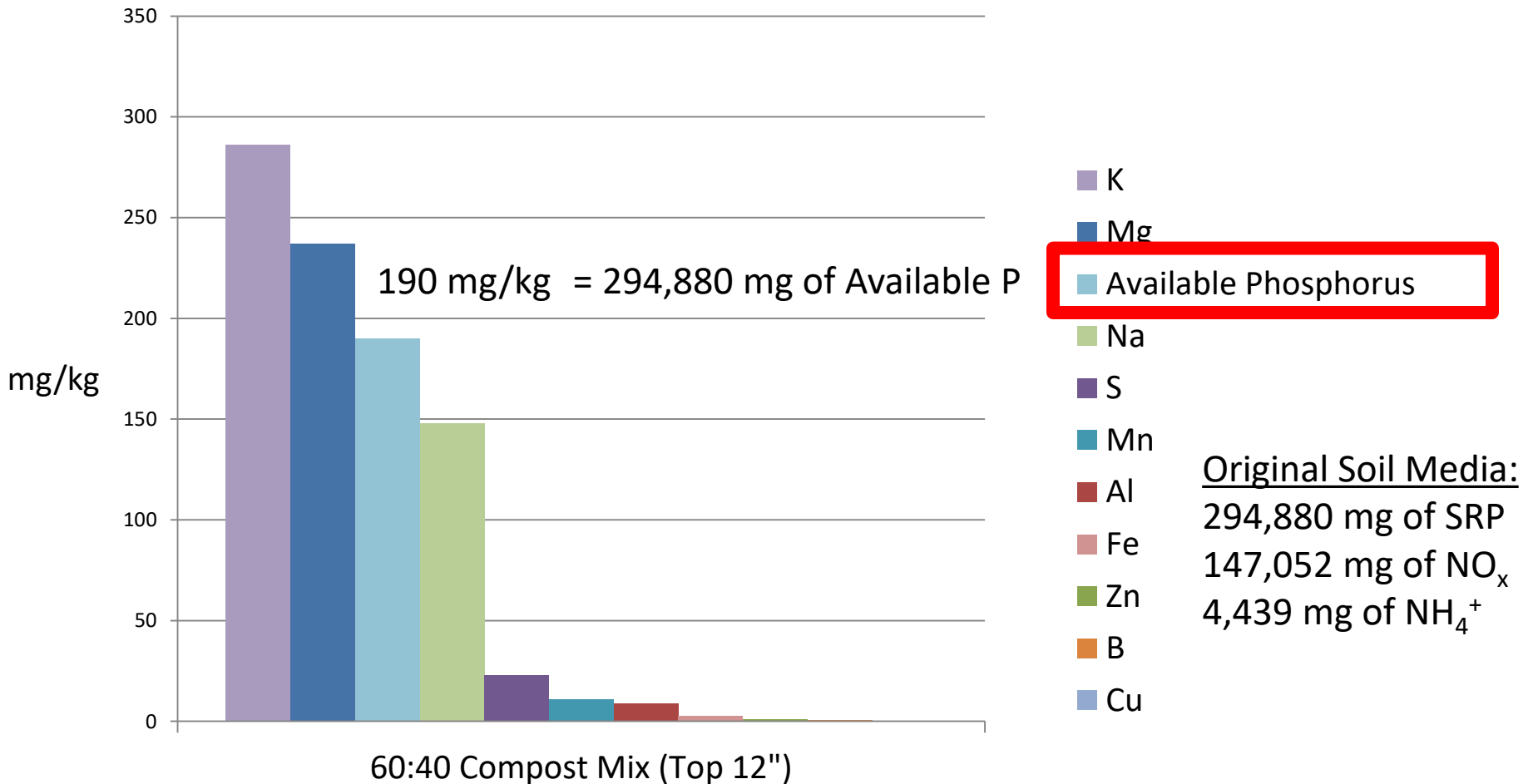
# Comparing Soil Media Treatments



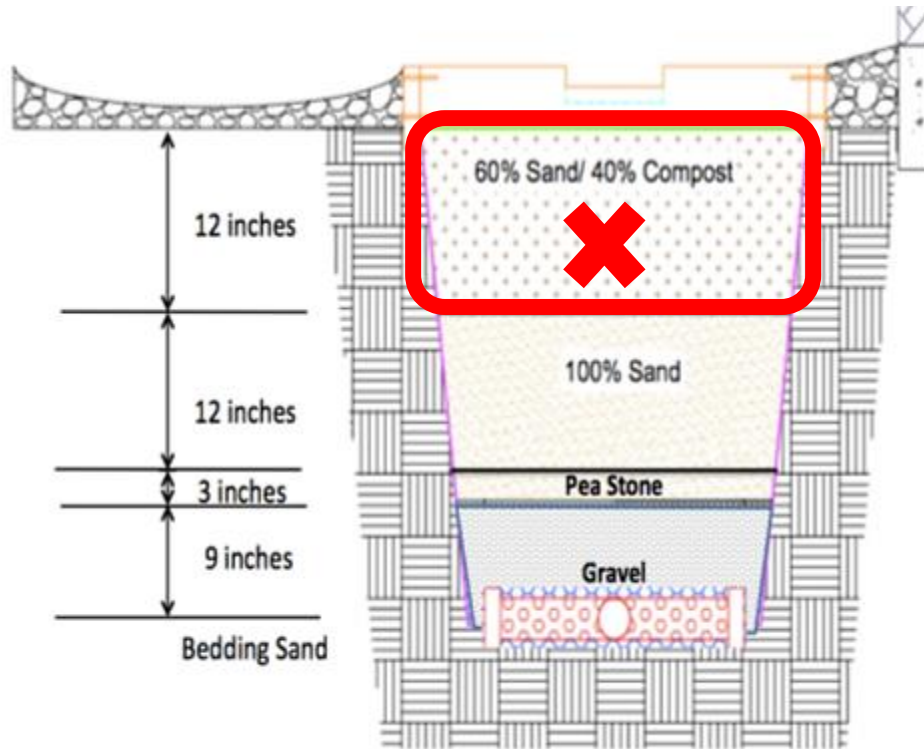
1. Sorbative Media (SM) retained more pollutant mass than Conventional Media (CM) for all constituents except NLP and TKN.
2. Conventional Media (CM) exported SRP and NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>



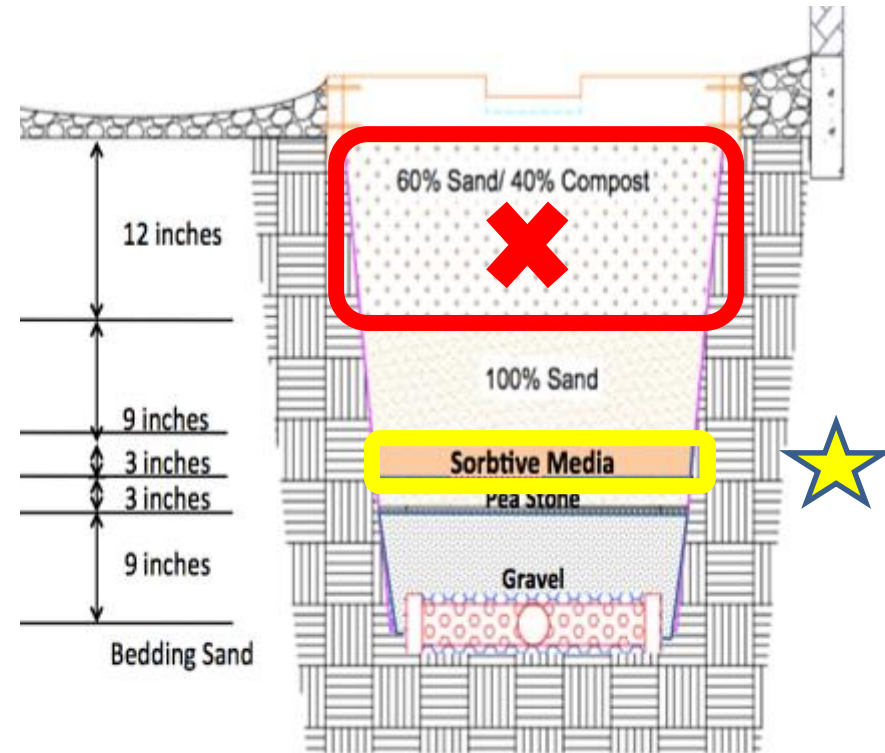
# Conventional Bioretention Design: 60:40 Sand Compost Mix



## Conventional Media Design










## Sorbptive Media Design



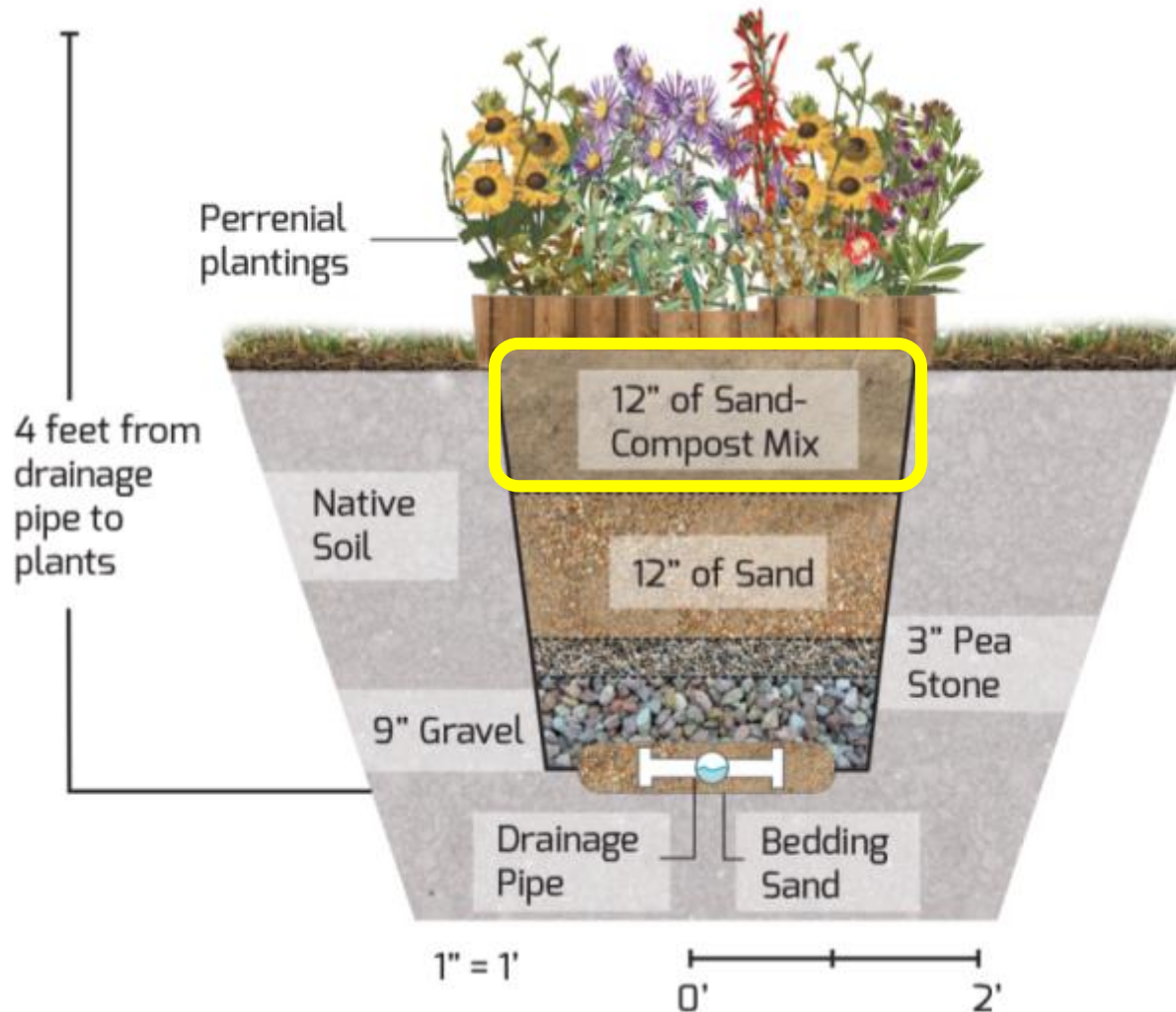
- Stormwater runoff contributed less than 5% of the total SRP load from the cells, with the remainder coming from the compost in the soil media
- $\text{NO}_3^-$  mass from stormwater contributed between approximately 10% and 20% of the total load.



# Average Outflow Concentrations Compared to the Literature

Parameter	This Study	Literature	Reference
NLP	53 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ (CM)	40 – 800 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ 	Hunt et al. (2006)
SRP	568 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ (CM)	210 – 670 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ 	Geosyntec (2008)
SRP	24 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ (SM)	140 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ 	Chardon et al. (2005) (Iron Coated Sand)
		< 10 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ 	O'Neill and Davis (2011) (WW Treat. Residual)
TKN	376 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ (SM)	1,240 – 1,780 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ 	Geosyntec (2008)
$\text{NO}_3^-$	227 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ (V2) , 547 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ (V1)	300 – 400 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ 	Dietz and Clausen (2006)
TSS	10.20 $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ (CM)	15 – 33 $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ 	Geosyntec (2008)

# Conventional Bioretention Media Design



Recommended By:

1. Vermont Agency  
of Natural  
Resources (2002)

2. Washington  
State University  
Pierce County  
Extension (2012)

3. Center for  
Watershed  
Protection



# Effective Pollutant Removal Requires the Right Soils

## Considerations

Textural Class

Infiltration Rate

CEC/AEC

Fe, Ca, or Al

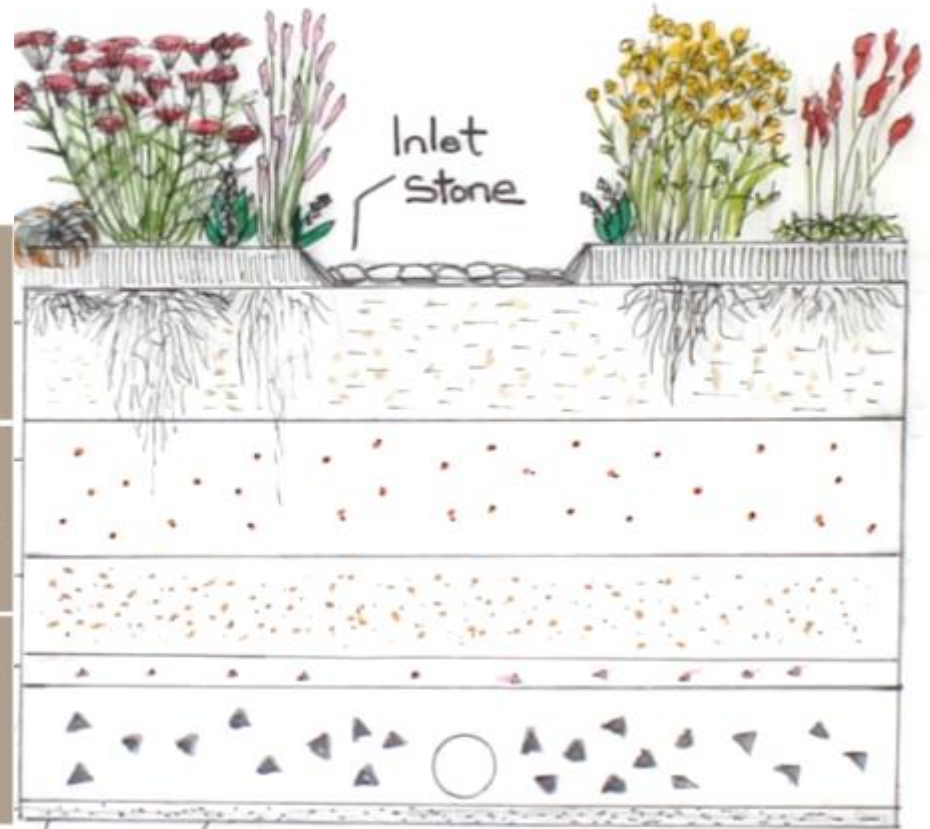
pH

Availability

Cost



FIGURE 2.2 - SOIL TEXTURE TRIANGLE



# Media Infiltration Rates

Reference	Infiltration Rate
This study	Modelled Rate at Installation: 131 cm hr <sup>-1</sup>
Arias et al (2001)	Actual Rate: 463 cm hr <sup>-1</sup>
Brix et al. (2001)	Actual Rate: 92 cm hr <sup>-1</sup>
Chen et al (2013)	Actual Rate: 1.3 cm hr <sup>-1</sup>
Davis et al. (2009)	Recommends > 2.5 cm hr <sup>-1</sup>
Debusk et al. (2011)	Actual Rate: 11.8 cm hr <sup>-1</sup>
Dietz and Clausen (2005)	Design Rate: 10 – 13 cm hr <sup>-1</sup> . Actual Rate: 3.5 cm hr <sup>-1</sup>
Hatt et al. (2008)	Actual Rate: 26.028 cm hr <sup>-1</sup> to 232.92 cm hr <sup>-1</sup> in different treatments
Hunt et al. (2006)	Actual Rate: 7.62 cm hr <sup>-1</sup> to 38.1 cm hr <sup>-1</sup>
Li and Davis (2008)	Actual Rate: Reduction from 43 – 164 cm hr <sup>-1</sup> to 3-11 cm hr <sup>-1</sup>
Lucas and Greenway (2011)	Vegetated: 27.7 cm hr <sup>-1</sup> to 59.6 cm hr <sup>-1</sup>
Thompson et al. (2008)	Actual Rate: 150 to 178 cm hr <sup>-1</sup> (sand/compost mix)
Washington State University Pierce County Extension (2012)	Recommends > 2.54 cm hr <sup>-1</sup>



# Soil Orders In Hawaii

Prepared by Hue, Ikawa & Yost  
Graphics was prepared by Miles Hakoda

## Andisol



Kula Series, Maui

Hilo Series, Hawaii

**Andisols** are soils derived from volcanic ash. The less weathered Kula soil on Maui is quite productive, while the Hilo soil on the Big Island is highly weathered and requires lots of fertilizers for crop production.

## Aridisol



Kawaihae Series, Hawaii

**Aridisols** are soils of the arid areas or soils with high salt content. The Kawaihae soil of the Big Island has features of an arid area of light color, low organic matter, and shallow depth.

## Entisol



Jaucas Series, Maui

**Entisols** are least-developed soils showing only a weak surface development. The calareous Jaucas soil on Maui is an example with sandy texture, and excessive drainage.

## Histosol



Papai Series, Hawaii

Alakai Series, Oahu

**Histosols** are organic soils with a high organic matter content in the surface horizon. The Papai soil on the Big Island has lost almost all of the surface organic matter (OM), but the Alakai soil atop Mt. Kaala on Oahu is high in OM.

## Inceptisol



Kolekole Series, Oahu

**Inceptisols** are soils showing minimal development of soil horizons. The Kolekole soil on Oahu is an example.

## Mollisol



Kawaihapai Series, Oahu

Makawele Series, Kauai

**Mollisols** are fertile soils with high organic C and high base saturation. Although the Kawaihapai soil on Oahu is dark, the Makawele soil on Kauai is red because of Fe oxides.

## Oxisol



Hali Series, Kauai

**Oxisols** are the most weathered soils of the tropics with low nutrient holding capacity and high Fe and Al oxides. The Hali soil on Kauai is an example.

## Spodosol-like soil



Oahu

**Spodosols** are soils with leached Al, Fe, and organic materials in the subsoil, showing a distinct layer.

## Ultisol



Alaeloa Series, Oahu

Haiku Series, Maui

**Ultisols** are highly weathered infertile soils with clay accumulation in the subsoils. Examples are Alaeloa soil on Oahu and Haiku soil on Maui.

## Vertisol



Lualualei Series, Oahu

**Vertisols** are soils that shrink when dry and swell when wet. They usually occur in valleys with poor drainage. They are fertile, but pose severe limitations for roads, housing, and related uses. The Lualualei soil on Oahu is an example.



# Commercial Bioretention Research

## Site: Kane'ohe, Hawai'i



- Construction Complete: November 2015
- SRP Removal w Sorption:  
Engineered  
Soil Blend: No Compost
  - $\text{NO}_3^-$  Removal with  
Extended Retention > 6 hrs
- Exploratory Monitoring:  
November 2015 - 2016



Protecting ocean health by restoring the 'āina: mauka to makai







$\log_2(x) = \frac{\log(x)}{\log(2)}$   
 $\log_2(8) = \frac{\log(8)}{\log(2)} = \frac{3}{1} = 3$   
 $\log_2(16) = \frac{\log(16)}{\log(2)} = \frac{4}{1} = 4$   
 $\log_2(32) = \frac{\log(32)}{\log(2)} = \frac{5}{1} = 5$   
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 $\log_2(316912650057057350374175801344) = \frac{\log(316912650057057350374175801344)}{\log(2)} = \frac{98}{1} = 98$   
 $\log_2(633825300114114700748351602688) = \frac{\log(633825300114114700748351602688)}{\log(2)} = \frac{99}{1} = 99$   
 $\log_2(1267650600228229401496703205376) = \frac{\log(1267650600228229401496703205376)}{\log(2)} = \frac{100}{1} = 100$

# Effective Bioretention (LID) Design

## Native Soil Blend:

Target Infiltration Rate 2.5 - 100 cm/hr  
High Mineral Contents (Ca, Fe)

## Extended Retention, $\text{NO}_3^-$ Removal:

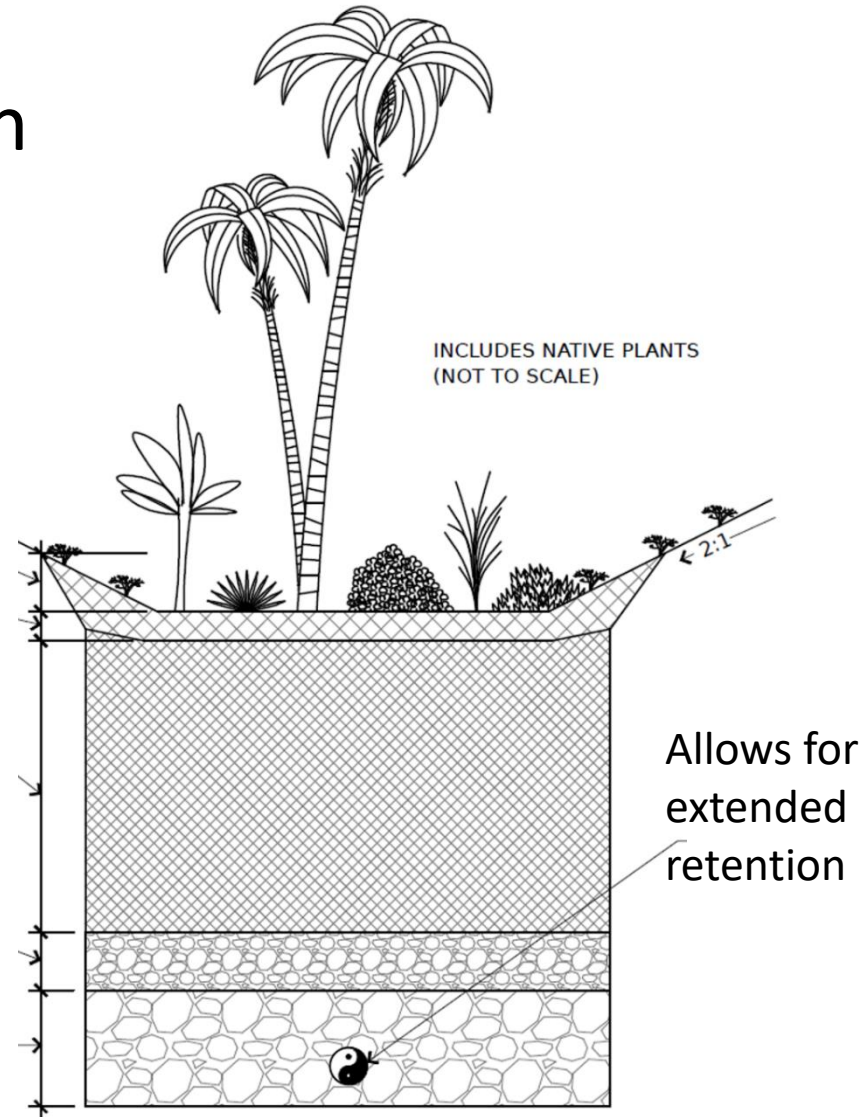
Target Retention Time > 6hrs

## Native Plants:

Target >75% Cover

Target Root Depths 1 to 4 ft

- No Compost
- Mulch or Stone Top Dressing





*A'ōhe hana nui ke alu 'ia*  
No task is too big when done together by all



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**Thank You!**  
**Interested in Partnering?**

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# References

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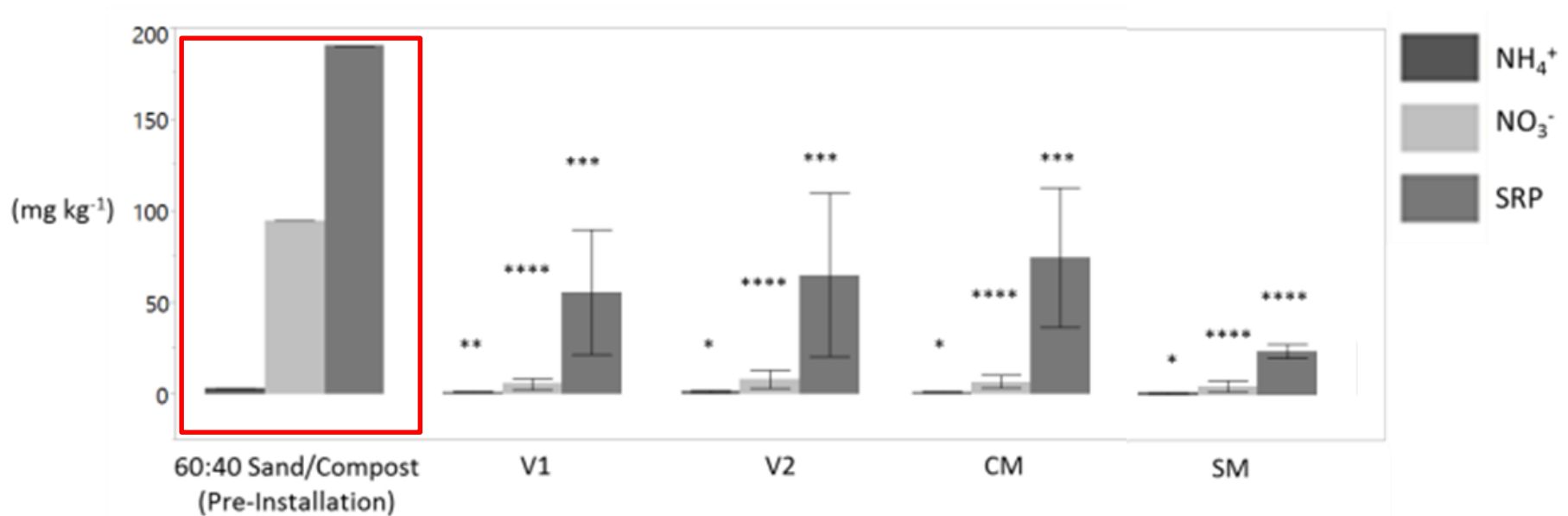


# Future Research

1. Labile carbon for efficient nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ ) removal
2. Develop Local Soil blends – getting the right mix of minerals and permeability
3. Planting pallets – quantifying pollutant removal loads of vegetation given a certain incoming load, maximizing pollutant removal, root depth, surface area, survivability and aesthetics



# Decrease in Soil Media Nutrients Over First Two Years



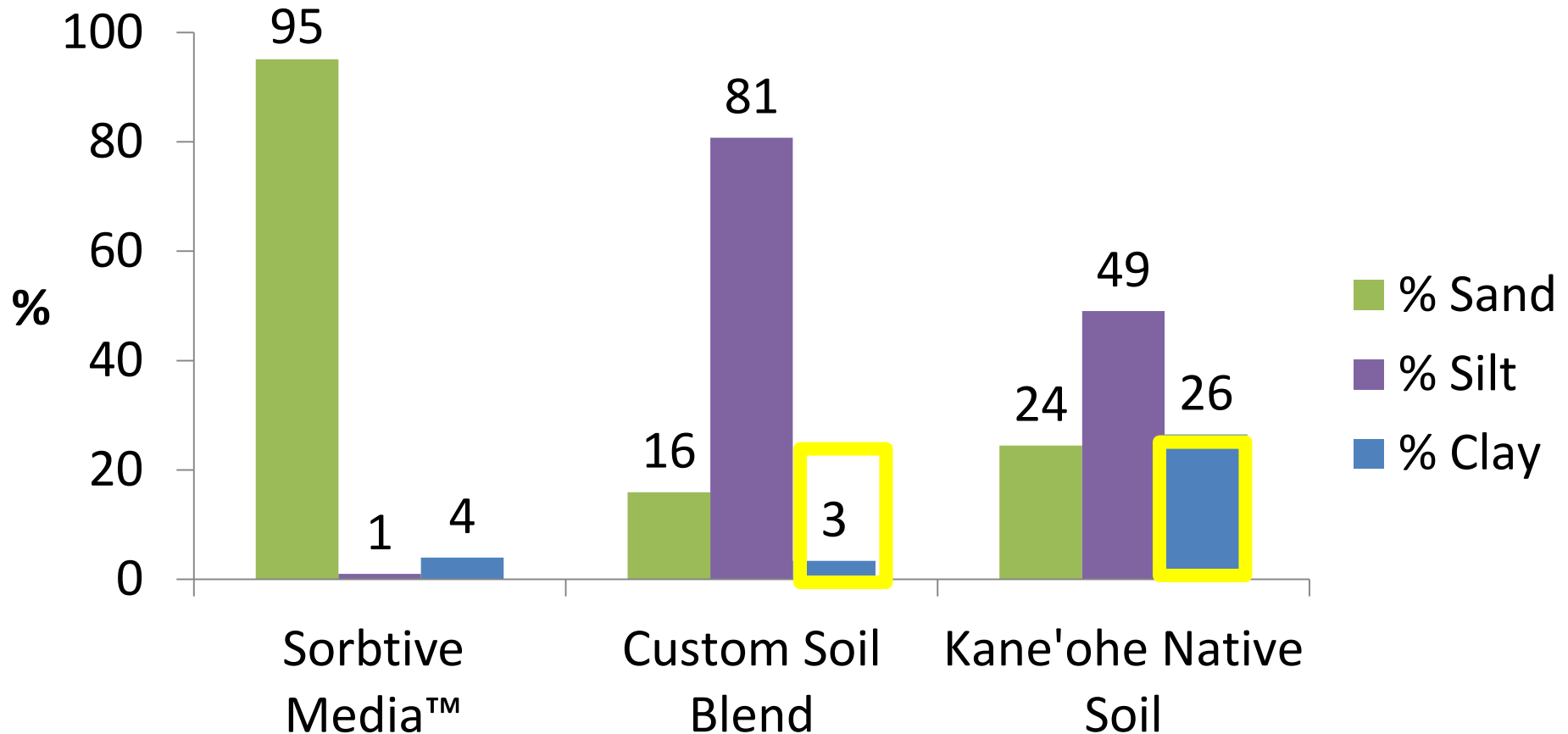
NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, and SRP significantly decreased from the original pre-installation mix after two years, in all treatments.

SRP decreased by between 66% (201 g) and 87 % (257 g).

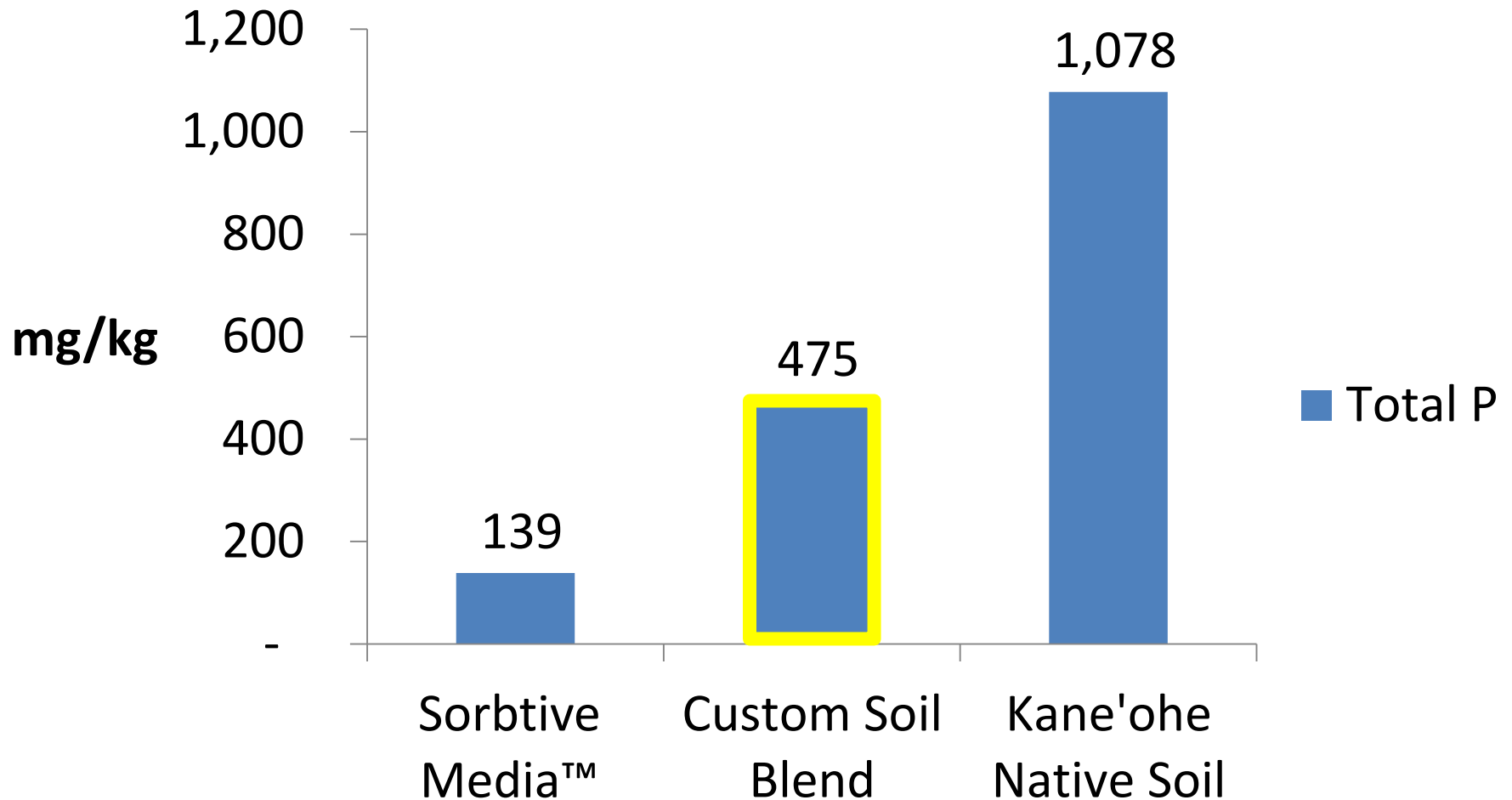
NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> decreased between 92% (135 g) and 96% (141 g).



# Design Soil Drainage Characteristics to Achieve Target Infiltration Rate

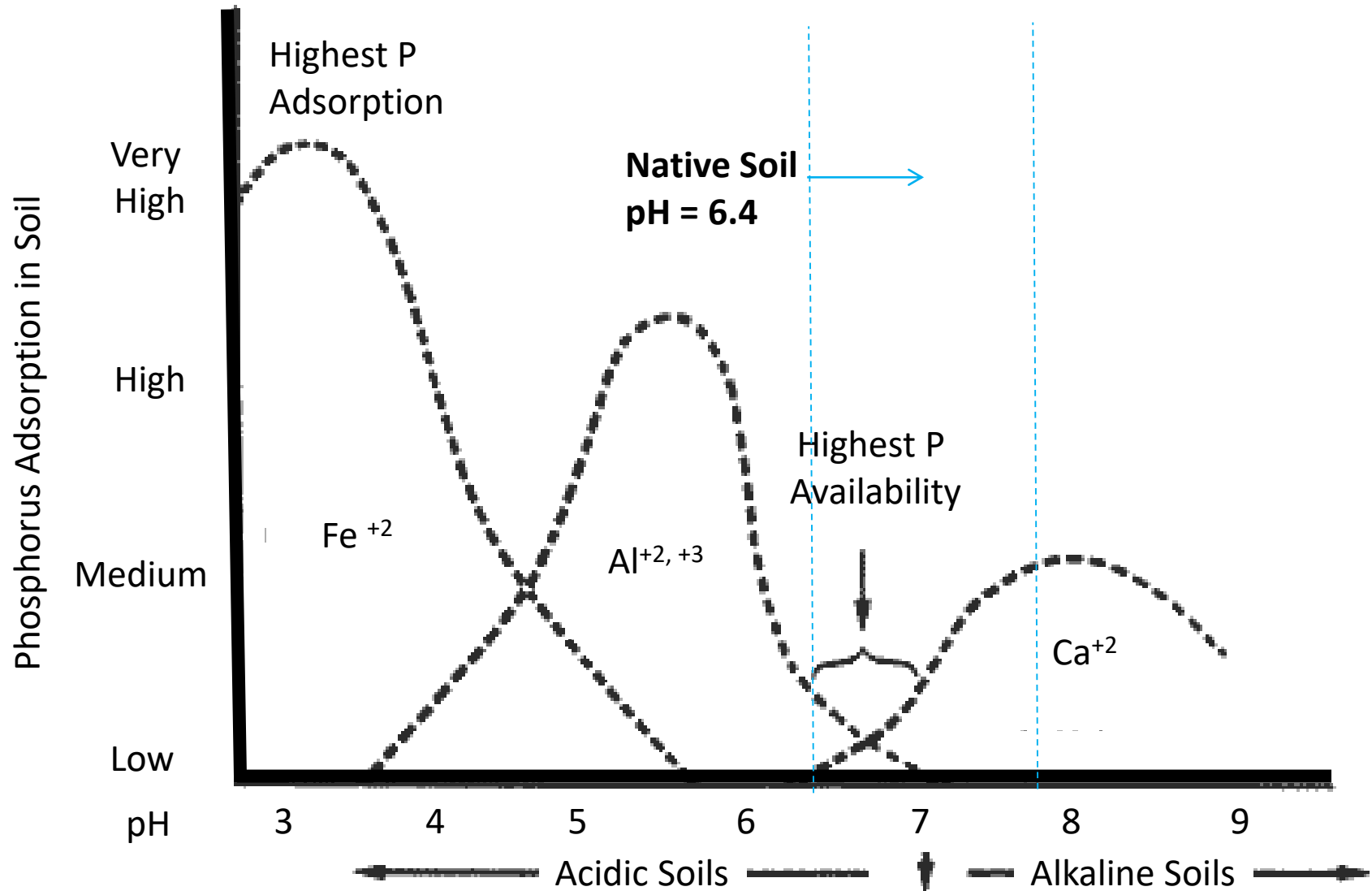


# Design Soil Media to Limit Total P





# Test pH to Target Mineral Content for Phosphorus Sorption



# Increase Mineral Content to Achieve Target P Sorption

